
Bay Area Mineralogists

November 2012

November 14, 2012, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237
<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year, unless diverted by extenuating circumstances. 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 November Program: **Dennis Freiburger,** **“A Gem Safari to Tanzania”**

Those who attend this month's meeting will have the pleasure of hearing one of our in-house gemstone enthusiasts. Dennis Freiburger will speak on his relatively recent trip to Tanzania. He shares this preview:

“This African country has recently become quite famous for an extensive variety of colored gemstones - sapphire, tanzanite, emerald, and much more. Almost everyone has heard of Umba Sapphire and Malaya Garnet – but what about Usambara Tourmaline or Manyara Alexandrite?”



Dennis' Umba pit crew (D. Freiburger photo)

“Although an exotic destination with its own unique prospecting challenges, gemstone tourism is actually easy in Tanzania. The presentation will include photos from a rare private tour of Tanzanite One's world famous tanzanite processing facility.”



*New lapidary jewelry: mining explosives!
(D. Freiburger photo)*

Bring your favorite rocks from Tanzania or gemstones of any stripe – should make for an interesting travelogue.

CalPhotos Online Database

Those of you at the October meeting will remember Ron Wolf introducing the CalPhotos database. For those interested in learning more, he sends along the following summary:

The University of California has been expanding its CalPhotos database of digital images for classroom use to include photos of minerals and geological features. The image bank was established in 1995 to pull together photo resources created and used by faculty for research and classroom instruction and to make them available on the web. The CalPhotos database could be helpful to BAM members in need of images for use in their own work.

At the outset, CalPhotos focused on biological subjects. Since then it has grown to include a wider range of natural history, social and cultural categories. BAM member Ron Wolf has been working with CalPhotos for past two years to expand its archive of geological and mineralogical images.

These days, CalPhotos images are used by a huge variety of organizations and people around the world, including students, college faculty, researchers, environmental organizations, parks, museums and zoos, publishers, and members of

the public interested in nature. Nearly 1000 photographers have contributed images to the archive. The list of contributors has grown to include many non-faculty professionals and accomplished amateurs. (For example, the late Bill Hewlett, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard and a aficionado of wildflowers, added 600 of his wildflower photos to the archive.) Worldwide, CalPhotos is now serving up more than a million images a day.

Several important features of the image bank make it more useful than many other sources of images on the web. Smaller sizes of the CalPhotos images can be downloaded and used without the need to obtain further permission. (However, contributors to the archive retain rights to larger sizes so it usually necessary to seek permission for use of large, hi-res versions.) Photos usually include detailed taxonomic and geographic information in searchable fields. The archive employs an annotation system that allows experts to review identifications for the photos. Elsewhere on the web, erroneous identification and misinformation are commonplace. The peer-review system makes CalPhotos much more reliable.

To browse geological and mineralogical images on CalPhotos, see:

http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/browse_imgs/geology_1.html

For general background information on CalPhotos, see:

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/about.shtml>

For details on using images in CalPhotos, see:

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/use.html>

To search the CalPhotos database, use caption/subject field on this search page:

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/custom.html>

If anyone is interested in contributing geological or mineralogical images to the CalPhotos database, feel free to contact Ron Wolf for more information at RonWolf@EyeOnNature.com.

Crystal Gazers' / BAM Holiday Party 2012 Edition

With the high levels of membership overlap in mind, the Crystal Gazers are continuing the

tradition of running a combined holiday party with BAM. As per the last few years, it will be held early in the season (Saturday, December 8) in the community room of Si and Ann Frazier's Albany apartment complex, running from 5pm to 9pm.

Much like BAM's September picnic, there will be a benefit auction. Food will be bring-a-dish potluck. Plan on carpooling and probably a short walk down the street, as parking is extremely limited in the complex.

The Fraziers need to hear from folks by Dec. 1st, both for a headcount and to speed things along with a name list for the security desk. Please contact either me or the Fraziers directly (siannfraz@aol.com) with your RSVP and to receive more specific directions to their place. Come on out – it's always a good time!

Another Reminder: January Mtg. Change of Date

Yes, it's still a ways out, but might as well start the drum beat. As teed up in the September newsletter, we're moving the January meeting out to the 16th, the third Wednesday of the month, in order to have Alfredo Petrov come to speak. Topic will be something on Japanese minerals and mineral collectors – keep an eye on this space next month for more info.

Upcoming Shows

November 3-4
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord, Clayton Fair Shopping
5298 Clayton Rd, Concord
10am to 5pm daily

November 9-11
"Fall West Coast Gem & Mineral Show"
Martin Zinn Expositions
Holiday Inn-Orange County Airport
2726 S. Grand Ave, Santa Ana
Fri. & Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm

November 10
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society Show
Vallejo Veterans Bldg.
420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo
Sat. 9am-5pm

November 10-11
Sacramento Mineral Society Show
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St.
Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm

November 17-18
Livermore Lithorama
Livermore Valley Lithophiles
3131 Pacific Ave, Livermore
Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 10am-4pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

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