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## Bay Area Mineralogists

### September 2010

September 8, 2010, 7:00 pm  
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237  
<http://www.baymin.org>



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#### Welcome Back!

It's the first meeting after our annual summer hiatus. Hope to see you at the USGS to catch up on what's been happening the last three months!

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 September Program: John Magnasco, "Crystal Twinning"

The school year kicks off with a talk by our very own John Magnasco on the topic of twinning in mineral crystals. A topic straight out of the 2009

Tucson theme of "Mineral Oddities", twinning can range from rare and weird to standard behavior for some species. John will fill us in on the "what" and "why" of these forms, undoubtedly supplemented with pictures and samples a-plenty.

Bring your favorite examples in for show-and-tell – should be an interesting program.



*C-axis Crystal twinning?*

#### BAM Summer Highlights

Another summer fading in the rear-view mirror... hope yours was a good one. BAM stayed active and there were plenty of things going on.

The big event was the club field trip to the Seven Devils District near Cuprum, Idaho, over the week of July 17-24. Stan Bogosian, Dan Evanich, Jean Lee, John Magnasco, Chuck Trantham, John Sulzbach, and Don & Forrest Windeler were joined by Steve Perry and his two

children for a week of collecting. Highlights included epidote, quartz, and garnet at the Peacock Mine, garnet and chabazite at the Blue Jacket Mine, and the great campsite at the former, while a few vehicle problems kept things from getting too comfortable. Expect a fuller recounting and exaggerations in a program to come.



*Forrest atop the Peacock dumps, overlooking the group campsite*

BAM was present in force at SFG&MS annual show in San Francisco, held August 7-8 Flowers in Golden Gate Park. BAM had its traditional table set up to help with mineral ID and recruiting potential members – a big “thank you” to all those who volunteered to help staff the table over the course of the weekend (and my apologies for not thinking to get a list of names!)

And per tradition, the BAM picnic was held at Stan and Sue Bogosian’s home in Saratoga. Always a good time, and the silent auction raised over \$850! Thank you to the Bogosians and to all who donated and/or bought rocks!

### **Mineral Collector in the News**

It’s not often that one sees rhodochrosite, tanzanite, and morganite on the front page of a newspaper section, but that’s what greeted readers of the San Francisco Chronicle Friday. The Chron profiled local collector and Crystal Gazer Jack Halpern in its Datebook, including lots of eye candy from his huge collection. Also noted: several inches of column space nudging the California Academy of Sciences to bring minerals back onto display to the public. We can dream...

For those who didn’t see the article in print, check it out at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/03/DD131F0VUO.DTL>

### **Gretchen Luepke-Bynum, 1943-2010**

Gretchen Luepke-Bynum passed away on July 3, 2010, as a result of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Gretchen was a long-time member and past president of BAM. She particularly enjoyed exhibiting at the Tucson show and always brought excellent specimens to the March post-show BAM meeting. Most recently, she was instrumental in getting permission for BAM to move its meeting place to the USGS after we had to depart from Foothill College.

Most of you have heard already through the BAM e-mails, but I wanted to ensure this was memorialized in the newsletter.

A more detailed obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercurynews/obituary.aspx?n=gretchen-bynum&pid=144250331&fhid=2104>  
Gretchen, you’ll be missed.

### **Upcoming Shows**

September 18-19  
Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City  
10am-5pm both days

September 18-19  
Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park & Museum  
2010 Riverside Dr, Paso Robles  
10am-5pm both days

September 25-26  
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Rd  
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

### **Letters to the BAM Editor**

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