

# The Mineral Mite

Vol. 46 – No. 3

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists March 2013

**Meeting: March 20 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

**Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204**

## **Program: The Adelaide Mine, Tasmania - Mining Crocoite DVD / Workshop on Dunning Micro mineral collection**

Tasmania. An island state separated from mainland Australia by 150 miles and home to one of the most delicate minerals in the collecting world - Crocoite. First discovered in Russia in 1766, the Dundas region of western Tasmania soon became the premiere location in the world for these incredibly fragile specimens. Learn the history of the island and its famous Adelaide Mine. Workshop: Dunning collection



**Join us for dinner at Five Guys, 4626 King Street before the meeting.**

## **Photo of the Month**

Paul Smith & Fred Schaefermeyer



Rock & Gem Magazine April 1999

## **President's Message:**

By: Dave MacLean



Our program for Wednesday 20 March will be further examination of minerals from the Dunning and other collections we have. Please bring in your Dunning and/or other club collections. Tom, you had some "exercises" in minerals for us. Kathy you have a CD to show.

**Our Conference: "Atlantic Micromounters Conference" is Friday evening 3 May and 9AM-8:30 PM Saturday 4 May at the Congressional School, Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church, VA. We all should have received a notice. Please send in your registration promptly.**

We will need your help on setup late Friday afternoon and takedown on Saturday evening. Some of our guests may need help taking their scopes and specimens into the school and taking them out on Saturday evening. Please bring your vuggy rocks full of crystals for the freebie table.

We need programs or specific program suggestions for our meetings Wednesdays 24 April, 22 May, 26 June, and 25 September. Help please.

**40th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference May 3-4, 2013  
Congressional School, Falls Church**

Register with Steve Weinberger  
See article page 3

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/27/13

By: George Reimherr

President Dave MacLean opened the business meeting at 7:58 p.m. Twelve members were present. The minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting were approved, as printed in the Mineral Mite (However, the dates listed for the GLMS club show at Gaithersburg, MD, should be corrected to March 16 and 17, 2013.) The treasurer gave his report.

**Old business** -- We still need volunteers to demonstrate micromounting at the GLMS club show. Members began to consider an alternative to the manpower - intensive demos at future shows - such as an exhibit type display, using photographs to show the micro crystals in the accompanying micromount cases. The JMU trip on February 23, 2013 was discussed; about 20+ persons attended from several local clubs. Our club donated \$100 to the JMU Geology Department. Members were encouraged to bring any extra microscopes they may have, to the Atlantic Micromounters Conference next May, for use by school personnel who may visit the conference.

**New business** -- There is a possibility of scheduling a field trip to the Manassas Quarry later in March, but the need to have a minimum of 10 participants may require us to join up with another local club for such a trip. Our next business meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2013.

The business meeting ended at 8:27 p.m.

### Previous Program Reviewed 2/27/13

"The Agates of Copper Country" presented by Wayne Sukow.



### Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area

Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.  
(Except Easter & December)

Long Branch Nature Center,  
625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington VA 22204

**MNCA Purpose:** To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, and related sciences.

President: Dave MacLean, dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: George Reimherr, greim@cox.net

Treasurer: Michael Pabst Michaeljpabst@yahoo.com

Editor: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com

The society is a member of:

\* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS) [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

\* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## 2013 Dues are Due

**Dues:** MNCA Membership Dues for 2013

\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)

**Payable to MNCA**

**Michael Pabst**

**270 Rachel Drive**

**Penn Laird, VA 22846**



### Editors' Notes:

**Kathy & Julia Hrechka**

Each month we will feature a club member's original article. Also, if you enjoy a particular article in an electronic form, forward it to us to be included in the next Mineral Mite. Photos are great too.



**"Where in the World are your Editors?"**

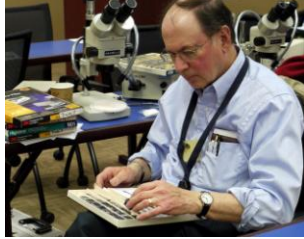
Kathy's newly designed Rock Room

**Club Article Deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15th.**

## Atlantic Micromounters Conference News May 3-4, 2013

By Steve Weinberger



The 40<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Micromounters Conference is fast approaching and registrations are starting to arrive. If you've not yet mailed yours, please do so as soon as possible so that we can plan for lunch accordingly.

I realize that most of you live in the local area so won't be making motel reservations, but for those of you who live out of town, do remember to make your reservations at the Town Suites (if that's where you chose to stay) before April 11 in order to obtain the discounted rate I've been able to arrange with them. The phone number and web link (for registering online) are in the registration materials you've received.

I've had the pleasure of knowing our speaker Julian Gray for a number of years. He is the curator of the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. He also helps organize the mineral talks during the annual Tucson show each year – and he was our Speaker-in-Residence last year at our fall EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. He has prepared three excellent talks for the weekend and I know you'll not be disappointed.

Thanks to all who have sent specimens for the auction. I'm in the process of photographing the specimens now and believe we'll have a wonderful selection to entice you to bid.



I look forward to seeing all of you at the Conference on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Oh yes, don't forget to register!

Photo: Julian Gray

## Field Trip: HavreDeGrace - March 23

BMS will be having a collecting trip to Havre De Grace on Saturday March 23, 2013. To participate you must be a paid 2013 member of BMS or Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society. I should have membership lists from both club by the time of this trip. The scoop of the trip is as follows:

- Arrive at quarry around 7:30
- Meet Quarry Supervisor on sight training 8
- Drive out to the quarry at 8:45 and start collecting around 9
- We will collect to about 12 or 12:30 depending on how long the quarry supervisor can stay.

You must have

- Hard Hat
- Steel Toed Shoes
- Fluorescent Vest
- Eye Protection
- You will also need to sign Hold Harmless agreements with your respective club.

The Quarry Manager reminded me that we can't go into the space between the quarry wall and Berm. OSHA is very strict about this and we need to make sure we stay in compliance.

They're alot of very nice specimens to be found at this quarry, so if you take your time and follow the quarry rules you should be fine and have a nice trip.

Contact Brad Grant [bgrant@aberdeen-md.org](mailto:bgrant@aberdeen-md.org)

## Field Trip: Mineral Hill - March 30<sup>th</sup>

There is going to be a BMS club meet up at Mineral Hill to do some collecting on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2013. This trip will be different than our normal quarry trips in that this is a public area and the club has not set times for collecting. I would strongly encourage the use of hardhats, steel toed boots and goggles because even though you are working on mineral piles you still have many of the same risks that you have in quarries. I would also ask that even though this is public land, to please show the same consideration as if you are collecting in a quarry or on Private Property.

You do need to be a member of the BMS club to participate on this trip.

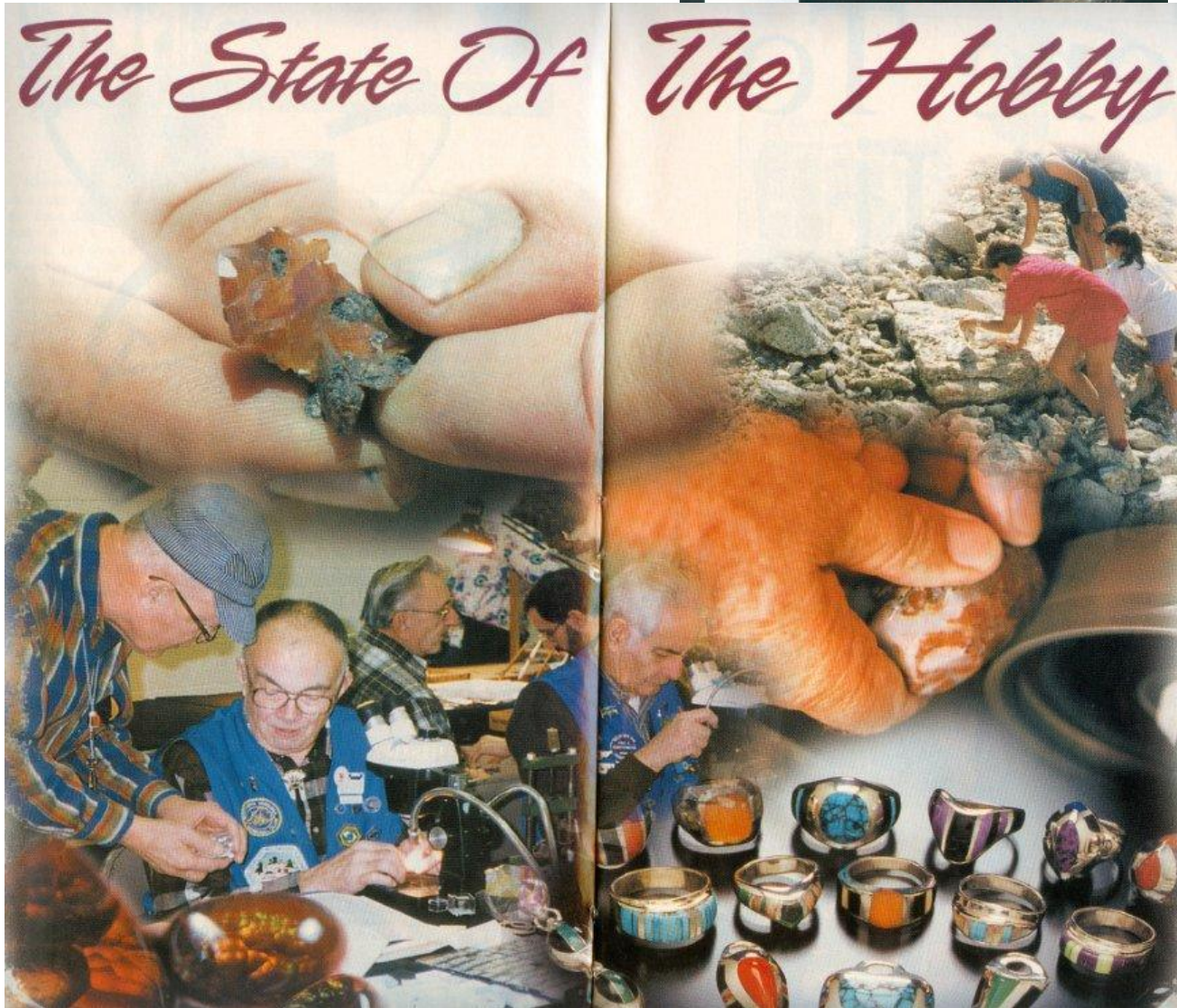
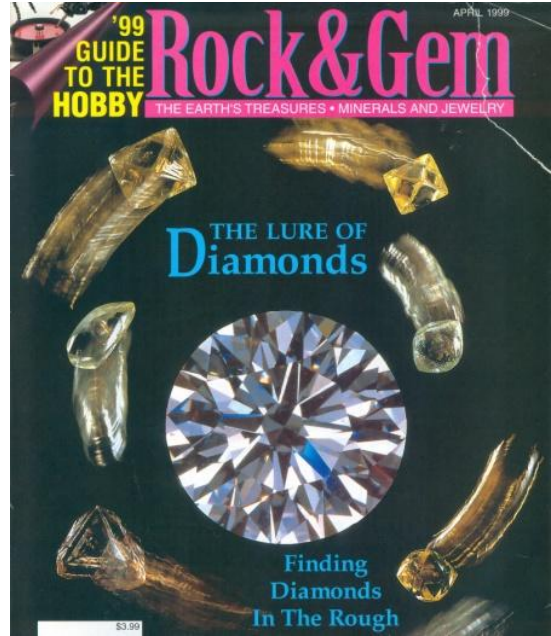
I will probably get there around 9:00am and collect until about noontime. Again you can stay later though. Any questions, please just shoot me an email.

Brad Grant [bgrant@aberdeen-md.org](mailto:bgrant@aberdeen-md.org)

## Locating Our Club's Real "Diamonds in the Rough"

Kathy Hrechka discovered two well known mineral hobbyists in the April 1999 Rock & Gem magazine. (Donated by Tom Taaffe at the Northern Virginia Mineral Club)

Captured in a collage of geology happenings, our club members, Fred Schaefermeyer (center) & Paul Smith (left) are wearing federation blue vests while examining micros. Fred (age 94) lives in Denver, Colorado. Paul is deceased. His wife Jennie lives in Dallas, Texas. To date, Fred and Jenny are honorary club members, and enjoy receiving *The Mineral Newsletter* each month.



## Dr. Kearns: James Madison University FIELD TRIP FOLLOW UP

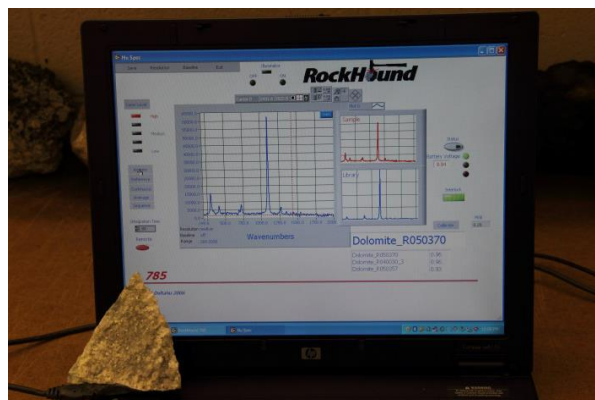
BY JONATHAN HARRIS

About 30 Rockhounds from the GLMSMC and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club ventured to Lance Kearns's laboratory and the Mineral Museum at the James Madison University for our indoor fieldtrip on Saturday February 2. Professor Kearns greeted us with pastries, tools for identifying mineral specimens, surplus specimens to trade for donations, and a visit to the museum.

Participants used microscopes, drops of acid, a Raman spectrometer, a modern x-ray diffractometer, and Lance's expertise to help identify specimens. Some added to their collection from a variety of surplus specimens and micromounts that Lance offered. We also toured the mineral museum--a room of specimens from Virginia and around the world and guarded by a state of the art security system.



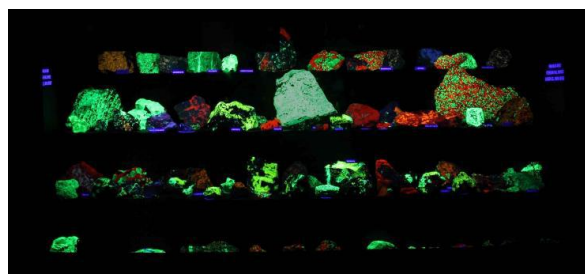
Virginia traprock display, JMU mineral museum



Dolomite with Raman spectra on laptop



Dr. Lance Kearns demonstrates the radioactivity from a uraninite specimen.



Fluorescent display at the JMU mineral museum.

Article via *The Rockhounder* March 2013  
GEM, LAPIDARY, and MINERAL SOCIETY of  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD. Inc  
Photos courtesy of Jonathan Harris

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)  
[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



Eastern Federation of  
Mineralogical and  
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)  
[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

### **AFMS/ Southeastern Federation Show September 20-22, 2013 Jacksonville, Florida**



You are invited Thursday night to Hanna Park at the beach. Star Gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy Society members and Telescopes (Saturn will be spectacular!) Cook out provided by Host society JGMS.

- \*SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting – Friday 7pm
- \*SFMS Annual Meeting – Saturday 9am
- \*ALAA Meeting – Saturday 2:30pm
- \*Awards Banquet – Saturday 6pm
- \*Editors and Webmasters Breakfast – Sun. 9am
- \*40+ retail dealers, Fantastic exhibits and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, Lectures on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations, workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions and more.

All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at the: Marriott, Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786 (Mention AFMS meeting for \$82 room rate. Offer Expires August 5, 2013.) (This rate is good from Sep 15th to 25th)

**Enjoy the Annual Jacksonville Gem Show!!!**

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### **MNCA Weather alert: SNOW CONTINGENCY**

If schools in Arlington County are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of our scheduled meeting, we will have no meeting.

**Call the NMCA President or a Board Member.**

**Communication and Involvement  
Are the Keys to Our Success!**

### **Geology Events:**

By Matt Charsky

#### **March:**

**16-17: GLMSMC Annual Mineral Show**  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds - Rockville, MD  
Micromineral demonstrations by MNCA members  
**23-24: 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club.  
Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

#### **April:**

**26-28: Graves Mountain, GA:** The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (SFMS) has issued an open invitation for clubs to join them in a field trip to Graves Mountain. Contact Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior), 706-359-3862 (business) or 706-401-3173 (cell).

**27-28: Sterling Hill Mining Museum Super Dig and Mineral Sale:** Saturday 10am-11pm and Sunday, 10am-3pm (sale only). The address is The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439, 973-209-MINE (6463), [info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](mailto:info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org); <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php>.

#### **June:**

**1 - 2: EFMLS Convention & Show  
hosted by the Island Rockhounds  
and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club.  
Plainview, New York.  
EFMLS Meeting; Friday, May 31.**

#### **EFMLS WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES**

- \* April 8 - 14 with Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of *Rock & Gem Magazine* confirmed as the speaker.
  - \* September 2 - 8 Speaker pending.
- Register early. Tuition is \$380 per person.  
EFMLS website <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)>  
Just click on the Wildacres tab.