

# The Mineral Mite

Vol. 46 – No. 6

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists

June 2013

**Meeting: June 26 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

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

**Program: 中国(长沙)国际矿物宝石博览会  
Changsha, China 1<sup>st</sup> Mineral & Gem  
Show - May 2013**

We will view a DVD of Bob Jones interviewing the promoters of China's first state-sponsored mineral & gem show which was held in Changsha – capital city of Hunan Province on May 16-20, 2013. Club members are encouraged to locate interesting internet information from the show site for our meeting. [www.changsha-show.com](http://www.changsha-show.com)



After the program we will need to discuss our Atlantic Conference leadership and duties for 2014.

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

## Photo of the Month



Green Torbernite, Yellow Kasolite, Red Wulfenite from Musonoi, Katanga, Shaba, Zaire (Congo) Michael Pabst

## President's Message:

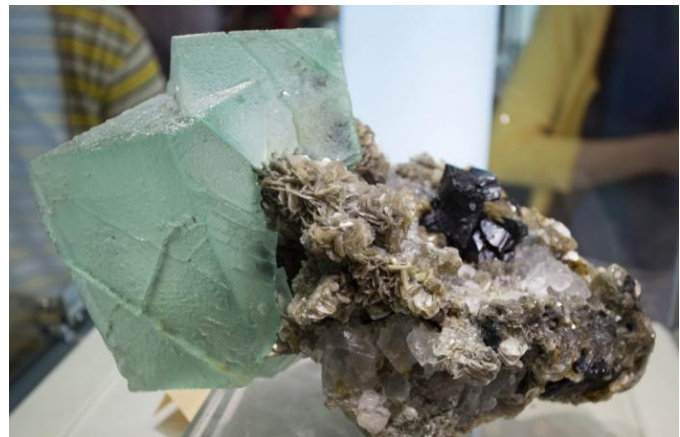
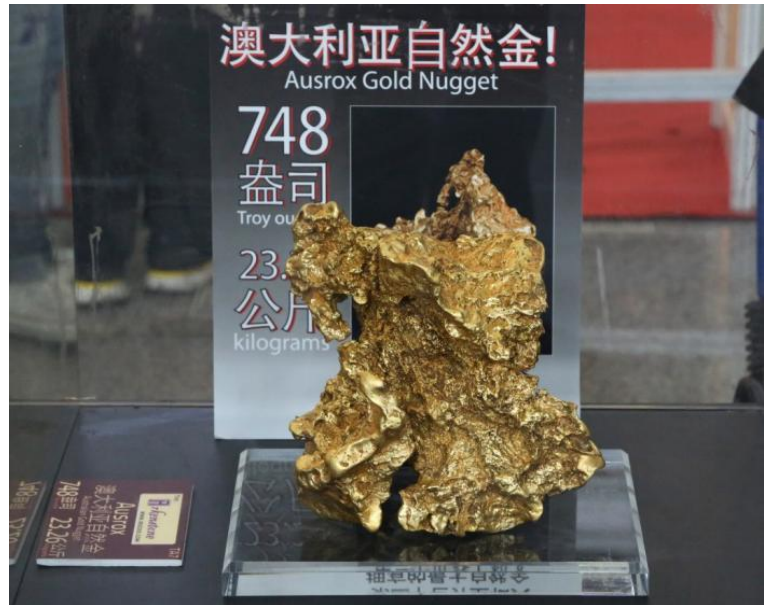
By: Dave MacLean



I first went to our Atlantic Micromounter's Conference in 1981. From about 1980 with the exception of 1984 we have put on our conference. If we decide to do so for 2014 we need to find space for it. I did talk with our contact at the Congressional School. He suggested we call him after we decided to put on our conference. The last I heard in May, the BMS had to wait until the Friends School in Baltimore formulated its calendar on 1 July. I believe that MNCA must decide on 26 June about a 2014 conference and ascertain that we have enough volunteers to put it on. If we decide to put on our conference, we will ask the Congressional school about using their space again. MNCA is our club. We can decide what we want to do.



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 5/22/13

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

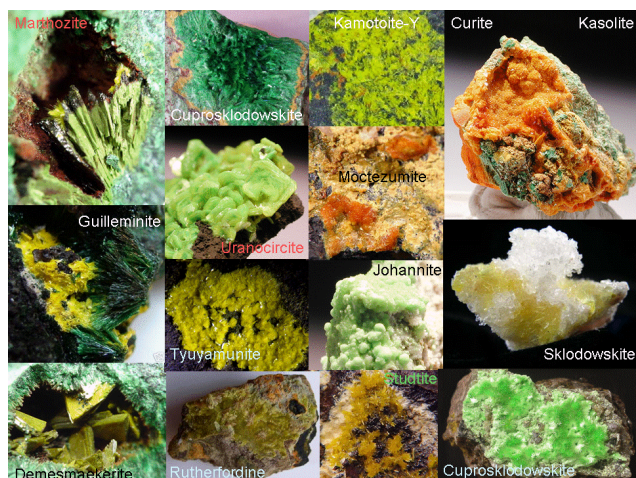
The evening events began, once again, with the program. This was titled "Basics of Radiation and Uranium Mineralization" and was presented by member Jim Kostka. The talk, with 2 brief breaks, lasted from about 8:10 p.m. until 9:53 p.m., leaving about 7 minutes for a brief business meeting, which was conducted by the treasurer, Michael Pabst, acting for the president, Dave MacLean, who could not attend the meeting.

The meeting began with the treasurer's report, given to the 10 members and one guest present. This was followed by approval of the minutes for the previous meeting, as printed in the Mineral Mite. There was no old business or new business, any such matters delayed until the June meeting.

**Announcements:** -- (1) Members were reminded of the club's scheduled field trip to the Vulcan quarry, Garrisonville, VA, on June 8, 2013, at 8 a.m. (2) Michael Hrechka is willing to produce a web page design for the club; he has the appropriate software. (3) Julia Hrechka is willing to scan the Mineral Mites from the first issue, up to the latest issue.

### Previous Program Reviewed 5/22/13

Club member, Jim Kostka presented the Basics of Radiation and Uranium Mineralization and classification. He included a tour of his radioactive collectables.



**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)

**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?**  
**Julia's Graduation June 4, 2013**

Farewell Note to Julia: This edition will be her last technical editing of *The Mineral Mite*, as she commences to college at Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Best Wishes! Love, Mom & Dad



**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Club Article Deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**“Leidy Sieves out the Zeolites:  
Phillipsite & Harmotome”**

By Eric Brosius & Ralph Thomas



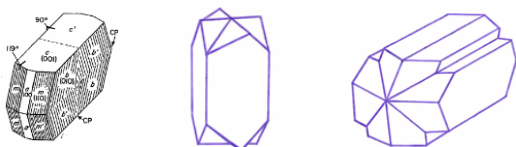
Leidy Microscopical Society of Pennsylvania meeting members and guests were introduced to the two interesting zeolites; phillipsite and harmotome. Leidy President, Eric Brosius, presented some background information on zeolites. What they are, basically minerals that are molecular sieves; where they are found, in both extrusive and intrusive volcanic rocks with high silica and aluminum content; and what they are used for, water softening, animal feed and catalysts in the petroleum industry to name a few.

Phillipsite is really a generic term for the three recognized species K-phillipsite, Na-phillipsite, and Ca-phillipsite. This monoclinic tectosilicate can be found as small rodlike, prismatic crystals that usually form complex twins, cruciform and sixlings. It occurs as colorless, white, yellow or gray with a vitreous luster and fine striations on the crystals.



**Phillipsite (Ca,Na<sub>2</sub>,K<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>6</sub>Si<sub>10</sub>·12H<sub>2</sub>O**

Harmotome occurs as a monoclinic tectosilicate forming cruciform penetration twins either simple or double twins known as “furlings”. This mineral is also colorless, white, yellow or gray but can also be found being red or brown.



**Harmotome  
(Ba<sub>0.5</sub>,Ca<sub>0.5</sub>,Na,K)<sub>5</sub>Al<sub>5</sub>,Si<sub>11</sub>O<sub>32</sub>·12(H<sub>2</sub>O)**

**William Phillips (1775-1828)**

The mineral phillipsite was named for the English mineralogist William Phillips whose major contribution to mineralogy was his books on geology and mineralogy.

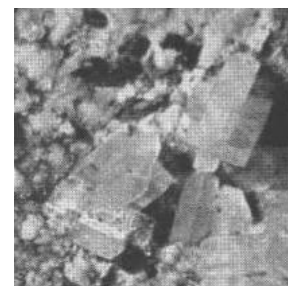


They became the standard textbooks of the time on the subjects. William Phillips was also the founder of the Askesian Society in 1796. This debating club of thinkers held theaters “Laughing Gas Evenings” when members would sup on nitrous oxide and stumble around on the stage.

**René Haiüy (1743-1822)**



The mineral harmotome was named by René Haiüy from the Greek – *harmos* “I combine” and *temseis* “I cut” in allusion to the fact that the pyramid of the crystal is cut by a plane forming the twinned crystals. Haiüy in naming harmotome irritated James Dwight Dana for not following the traditional method of naming minerals using the “ite” suffix.



**Phillipsite (balls)  
Aci Castello, Sicily**

**Harmotome  
Glen Riddlw,  
Delaware Co., PA**

Crystal drawings courtesy of Roger Weller, Geology Instructor, Cochise College for both phillipsite and harmotome

Reprinted from *The Rock Chatter*, The Newsletter of the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania - June, 2013



**Phillipsite  
Perugia Province  
Umbria, Itlay**



**Harmotome  
Northwest Highlands  
Scotland, UK**

## 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)

### 2013 AFMS/SFMS Convention and Show

#### Heavens and Earth

**September 18 – 22, 2013**

Sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem  
and Mineral Society, Inc.

<http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org>

**Convention Location**  
Marriott Jacksonville  
4670 Salisbury Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
(904) 296-2222

**Show Location**  
Morocco Temple  
3800 St Johns Bluff Road South  
Jacksonville, FL 32225

- \*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 Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32256, 1-800-962-9786  
(Mention AFMS meeting for  
\$82 room rate. Offer Expires  
August 5, 2013.) (This rate is  
good from Sept. 15th to 25th)



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

#### Geology Events:

By Matt Charsky

##### June: June

**20– Fairless Hills, PA – Leidy Microscopical Society Meeting** at the Northminster Presbyterian Church 7:30 PM. The topic will be “A Micromount Workshop”. Members will bring in specimens from the Carl Rilling collection that are in need of repair.

##### August:

**9-11: West Springfield, MA – East Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.** Over 200 dealers from all over the U.S. and abroad, offering a variety of items related to earth sciences. Door prizes, guest speakers, museum quality exhibits, and a large wholesale section. Largest wholesale section in the East! Fri.–Sat. 10-6 PM, Sun. 10-5 PM

Admission \$6 for adults and seniors; under 12 free with adult. Parking fee is \$5 per day. Pets are not permitted in the Better Living Center. Better Living Center at the Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089

**16-18 – Lebanon, PA Gem Miner’s Jubilee** MAGMA (Mid Atlantic Gem and Mineral Association). Dealers, Classes and Seminars. Tailgating area outside. Lebanon Expo Center & Fairgrounds, Route 72 and 80 Rocherty Rd, Lebanon, PA 17042. Fri. 10-6 PM, Sat. 10-4 PM, Sun. 10-4 PM. Info. (301)565-0487

##### September:

##### **2-8 EFMLS WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES**

Speakers: Quintin & Willow Wight, Distinguished Writers, Editors, and Micromineralogists. Register early. Tuition is \$380 per person. EFMLSwebsite<[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)> Just click on the Wildacres tab.