

## Merry Christmas - Happy Hanukkah

Zoom Meeting December 23 Time: 7:30 p.m.

### Program: “An Introduction to the Minerals of Victoria, Australia”

by Steve Sorrell, Melbourne Australia

Steve has had a keen interest in minerals for over 30 years and held the position of Vice President of the Mineralogical Society of Tasmania for many years. He is an enthusiastic collector, and enjoys photographing minerals (particularly micro minerals), and drawing or painting mineral specimens. He is the editor of the “Monthly Mineral Chronicles”, now into its third year, and has compiled the “What’s New” section in recent editions of the Australian Journal of Mineralogy.

Steve is very active on Social Media, and in particular, the Mineral Hub established on MeWe ([mewe.com/i/stevesorrell2](http://mewe.com/i/stevesorrell2)). All mineral collectors are welcome. Recently retired, his current venture is the production of photo-rich mineral locality guides. Flinders (Victoria) and Spring Creek (South Australia) have already been published, and Lake Boga (Victoria) is currently in progress. Details can be found here - <https://sorrellpublications.com>.

### Photo of the Month:

Gold, Sebastopol, City of Ballarat, Victoria - Steve Sorrell



### President’s Message:

by Dave MacLean

I believe 52 persons from everywhere watched our MNCA zoom session of Scott Braley's talk about the long past copper and fluorite mines, within Cibola National Forest in NM. The history and microphotographs of motramite, fluorite, vanadinite, wulfenite and other minerals were spectacular. Thank you, Scott. Thank you, Michael Pabst for teaching Scott the art of micro mineral photography.



Another program on Zoom featured the Blanchard mine near Socorro and White Sands Proving Ground in NM, its history and vignettes about the people involved in it. We saw photos of blue fluorite and micro photos of anglesite, cerussite, galena, fluorite, and other minerals.

As we enjoy the holiday season let us remember, pray for and help the persons and their families and friends who died, the sick and their caregivers, those who are in contact with the infected, the unemployed, those facing eviction, the hungry and food insecure and most importantly actively seek to fulfill their needs. It appears that we can avoid catching Covid-19 and enjoy fascinating programs by Zoom. Next year we, hopefully, will meet again.



MNCA Crystallography Tree

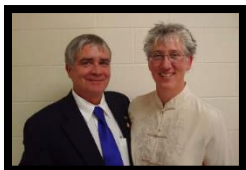
**Previous Program  
Reviewed 11/04/20**

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

This program was hosted by The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, with an invitation to our club, along with other local clubs.

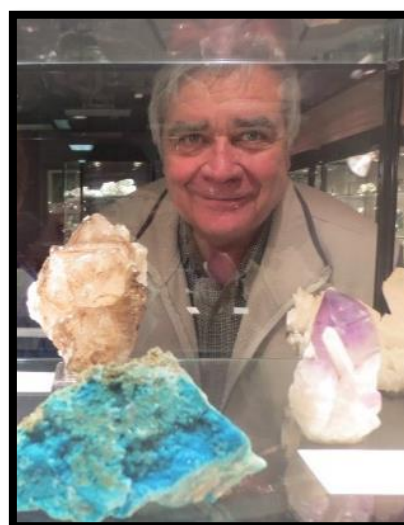
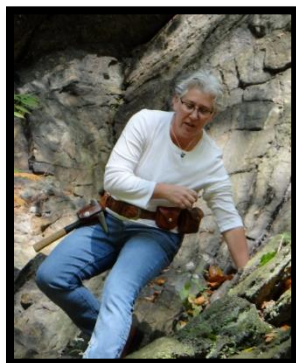
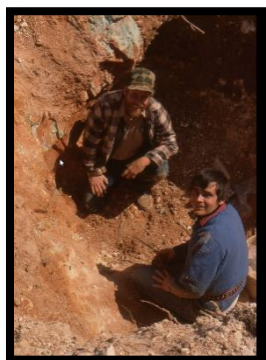
**Program: The History and Evolution of the JMU Mineral Museum by Drs. Lance & Cindy Kearns**  
by Kathy Hrechka, Editor

On November 4, Drs. Lance & Cindy Kearns shared their memories of our mineral club visits dating back to the 1980s, and of assembling the geology museums at JMU. I recall Lance retired from teaching two years ago. Matter of fact, we still owe him a retirement party. It is clear from their presentation that Lance has found his niche, post retirement.



### Mineral Clubs of the Region

Mineralogical Society of D.C.  
Northern Virginia Mineral Club  
Micro-mineralogists of the National Capitol Area  
Shenandoah Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
Southern Maryland Mineral Society  
Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co., Maryland  
Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society  
The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg  
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society



Lance Kearns & Don Richardson 1983 Herb II Pegmatite Powhattan, VA – Cindy Kearns VA 2020

Grand opening 2007 in Memorial Hall JMU



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### JMU Mineral Museum

Lance and Cindy gave us a preview of their new James Madison Mineral Museum which features Peter L. Via's collection, which is what we have been waiting to view. In 2019, the university received by bequest the extraordinary collection of display-quality mineral specimens assembled over a 20-year period by Peter L. Via. JMU is proud to announce that this is a \$16.8 million-dollar mineral collection.

The September/October issue of The Mineralogical Record has a feature article of the museum and the specimens, pp703-726. Jeff Scovil took about 60 photos contained in that article.



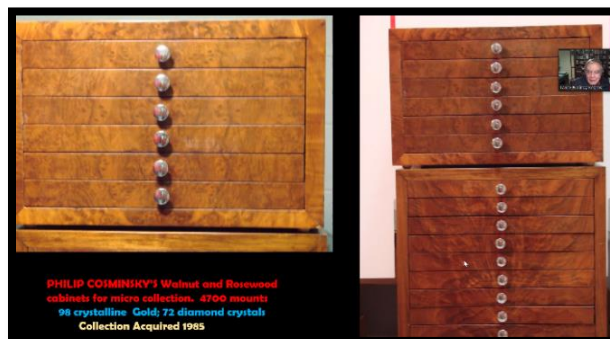
1. JMU collections 1976
2. Richard Mitchell Memorial Collection
3. Franklin & Sterling Hill Collections
4. Micromount Mineral Collections
5. Peter L. Via Collection

JMU Mineral Museum on Utube Nov 2020

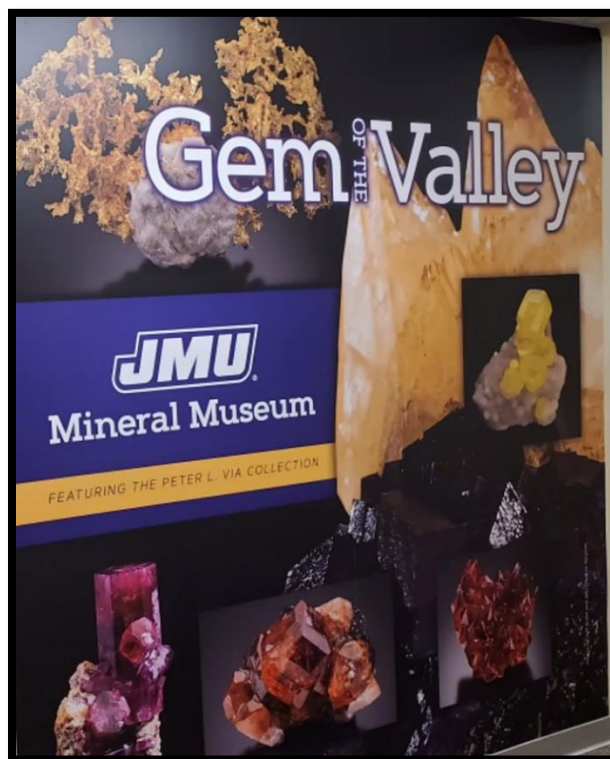
<https://youtu.be/aHGG6DkQhRc>



Mineral donations by Peter L. Via, Roanoke, VA



Philip Cosminsky's micro collection 4,700 mounts, 98 crystalline gold, 72 diamonds: JMU acquired 1985



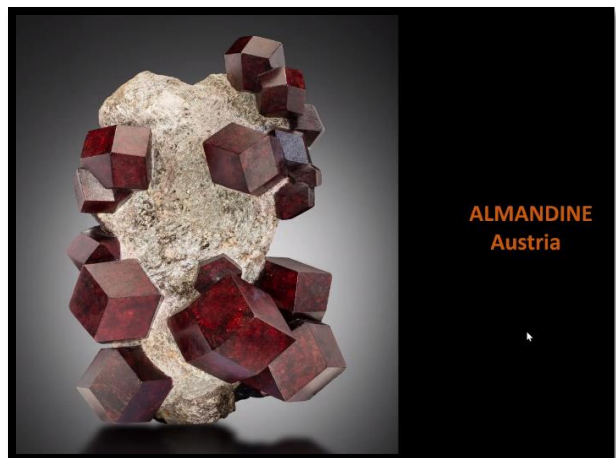
**JMU Mineral Museum Featuring Drs. L&C Kearns: Peter L. Via Collection**



Aquamarine, Minas Gerais, Brazil

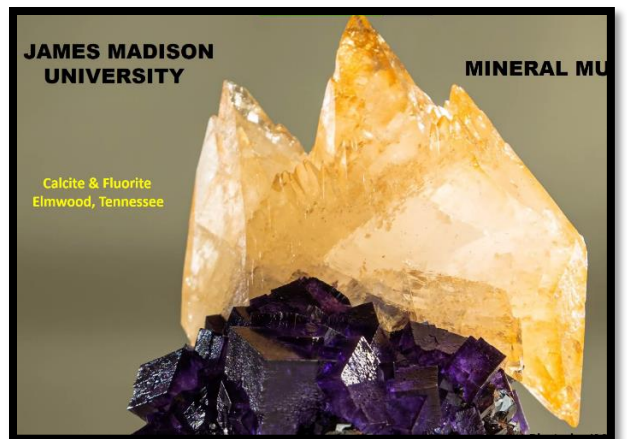


Elbaite, Pederneira, Brazil



**JMU Mineral Museum**  
**Jeff Scovil photography, most minerals**

<https://www.jmu.edu/mineralmuseum/>



**Previous Meeting Minutes: 11/25/20**

by Kathy Hrechka

Our meeting for the evening had forty-two viewers, which was hosted by Mark Kucera in New York. We did not hold an official meeting, even though Kathy stated that the slate of officers for 2021 are recorded in the newsletter.

**MNCA 2021 Officer Nominations: Vote in Dec**

- President – Dave MacLean
- Vice President – David Fryauff
- Secretary – Bob Cooke
- Treasurer – Michael Pabst

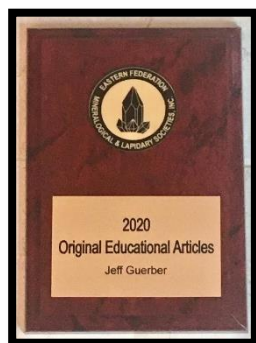
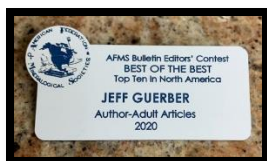
**Congratulations Jeff, Julia, & Kathy!**

**Jeff Guerber EFMLS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy Original Educational Articles MNCA

**Jeff Guerber AFMS**

4<sup>th</sup> Place Award MNCA



**Julia Hrechka EFMLS** Honorable Mention Website Award MNCA

**Kathy Hrechka EFMLS** Decade Club MNCA  
Note: I will personally deliver awards to Jeff Guerber.

**Previous Program Reviewed 11/25/20**

by Kathy Hrechka (including screen shots)

**Program: Collecting at the Red Cloud Mines of Lincoln County, New Mexico** Dr. Scott Braley from Santa Fe, New Mexico discussed the Red Cloud mines of Lincoln County, NM – two small, distinct mines a few hundred feet apart in the Gallinas Mountains, within the Cibola National Forest. He presented interesting micro fluorites and some rare earth minerals. We viewed beautiful vanadinite, wulfenite, mimetite, cerussite, and more from the Red Cloud Copper mine. His photomicrography was truly amazing and will be posted on Mindat.



## Pyrrargyrite, a Silver Sulfosalt

by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

In recent articles, we have looked at silver minerals, including elemental Silver, silver sulfides, silver selenides, and silver tellurides. All these minerals have ranged in color from silver to black. We are now about to move from this monochrome palette to some intense red and orange colors, by looking at silver sulfosalts. A sulfosalt differs from a sulfide by having three elements in its composition: a metal, and a semi-metal, and sulfur. The general formula for a sulfosalt is  $A_xB_yS_z$ . In our article here, the metal A will be silver, predominately, although we will mention copper, lead, tin, and gold analogs. The semi-metal B is usually antimony or arsenic, or sometimes bismuth (all in the same column of the Periodic Table), or thallium. And sulfur can be replaced by its higher analogs selenium or tellurium. Some of these minerals are known as “Ruby Silver” because of their color; this includes Pyrrargyrite (dark ruby silver) and Proustite (light ruby silver), and sometimes also includes Polybasite and Pearceite. We will see photos of all these silver sulfosalts in the next few articles.

We will start with a beautiful silver mineral, Pyrrargyrite  $Ag_3SbS_3$  (silver antimony sulfide). I love this mineral because it so beautifully demonstrates the desirability of micro crystals to see the true color of a mineral. In museums, cabinet specimens of Pyrrargyrite look like black chunks. The color of Pyrrargyrite is so intense that larger specimens completely absorb the light and look black. But a tiny crystal reveals the intense deep red color. I cannot resist subjecting you to another view of my favorite specimen, which I found myself at a mine west of Denver, near Idaho Springs.

Photo on right is a close-up of previous specimen. **Pyrrargyrite**, Nabob Mine, Larsen, Clear Creek Co., CO. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using Luminar lens and bellows with Panasonic DMC-GF3 camera, taken in 2012. Corrected with Photoshop Elements.



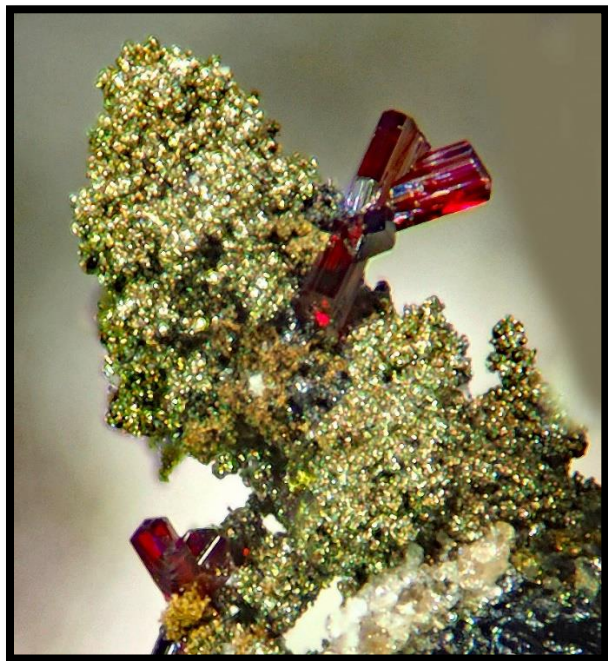
**Pyrrargyrite**, Nabob Mine, Larsen, Clear Creek Co., CO. FOV 3 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using Luminar lens and bellows with Panasonic DMC-GF3 camera, taken in 2012. (Pabst #603)

(I added my catalog numbers, because these crystals are so tiny that it is hard to see them and it is difficult to keep track on which specimen each tiny crystal resides.)



## Pyrrargyrite continued

I have more nice specimens of Pyrrargyrite, so I hope you enjoy looking at this beautiful silver mineral. Here is another specimen from the Nabob mine. The slightly greenish-gold Chalcopyrite matrix is characteristic of the Nabob Mine.

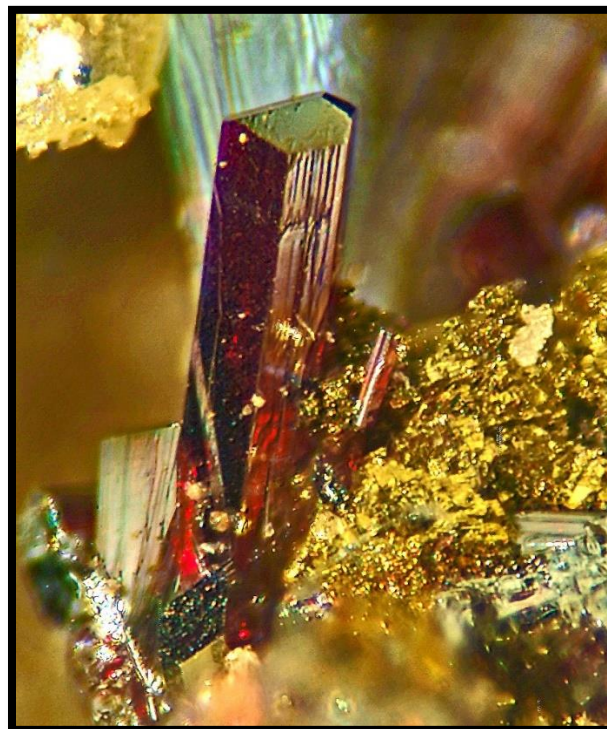


**Pyrrargyrite**, Nabob Mine, Larsen, Clear Creek Co., CO. FOV 1.2 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 18 images with CombineZP. (Pabst #606).

The Nabob mine crystals come from one of my more memorable experiences in field collecting. The Nabob mine was being worked by a professional mining engineer who was a member of our Denver micromounting club. He discovered some interesting secondary silver minerals and bulldozed the material outside onto the apron of the mine. He then kindly invited our club to hunt for goodies. It was a gray and rainy day, and the local rock was also gray and turned into gray mud with the rain. Everything and everyone were covered in gray mud. I found a chunk of rock about a foot across that seemed to have some red traces, so I stuck it into the trunk of my car. After washing the mud off, we discovered a treasure trove of Pyrrargyrite and other silver minerals. Our club broke up that rock and produced about 100 micromounts of Pyrrargyrite. I prepared a slide show, and gave several talks, including one at the Tucson

Gem and Mineral Show, where we gave away a lot of the mounts. In upcoming articles, I will show pictures of some of the other silver minerals we found. Only recently has my photographic equipment improved enough to show these tiny crystals properly.

And here is a third Nabob Pyrrargyrite.



**Pyrrargyrite**, Nabob Mine, Larsen, Clear Creek Co., CO. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 7 images. (Pabst #109)

Let us now look at some Pyrrargyrite from my collection that comes from localities other than the Nabob Mine in Colorado. My next specimen comes from the Van Silver Property near Whistler, British Columbia.

continued next page



## Pyrargyrite continued



**Pyrargyrite**, Van Silver Property, Brandywine Creek, Vancouver Mining Division, British Columbia, Canada. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 12 images. (Pabst #807)

The next Pyrargyrite from my collection is from the Czech Republic.



**Pyrargyrite**, Příbram, Central Bohemian Region, Czech Republic. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 24 images. (Pabst #712).

There are more than 630 photos of Pyrargyrite on Mindat, but most photos look black. Here are some of my favorite photos of Pyrargyrite from Mindat:

First, to show my broadmindedness about larger crystals, I present an attractive black specimen from Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico. Photo by Joseph Freilich: [www.mindat.org/photo-173598.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-173598.html).

Now to the pretty red crystals:

From Le Rivet Quarry, Peyrebrune, Castres, Tarn, Occitanie, France, a photo by Guy Bernadi: [www.mindat.org/photo-290897.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-290897.html).

From the Clara Mine in Germany, a photo by Michael Förch, a great Mindat photographer and expert on the Clara Mine: [www.mindat.org/photo-839421.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-839421.html).

From Silver Tunnel, Van Silver Property, Brandywine Creek, Vancouver, British Columbia, a photo by Stephan Wolfsried: [www.mindat.org/photo-80990.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-80990.html).

Shown below, from Příbram in the Czech Republic, a photo by R. D. Green: [www.mindat.org/photo-60227.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-60227.html).



**Pyrargyrite**, Příbram, Czech Republic. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Richard D. Green. Tweaked with Photoshop Elements to improve sharpness.

continued next page

## Pyrargyrite continued

Pyrargyrite crystallizes in the trigonal system,  $3m$  – ditrigonal pyramidal. It forms hemimorphic prismatic crystals, as shown in the diagram below. The crystals are soft, Mohs 2. The crystals sometimes look metallic because of high refraction. If exposed to light over an extended period, a film of metallic silver will form on the crystals, which will darken the crystals and make them look more metallic. This is part of the problem with museum specimens. Pyrargyrite was named from the Greek  $\pi\upsilon\rho$  (pyr) and  $\acute{\alpha}\rho\gamma\upsilon\rho\omicron\varsigma$  (arguros), meaning fire-silver.

w

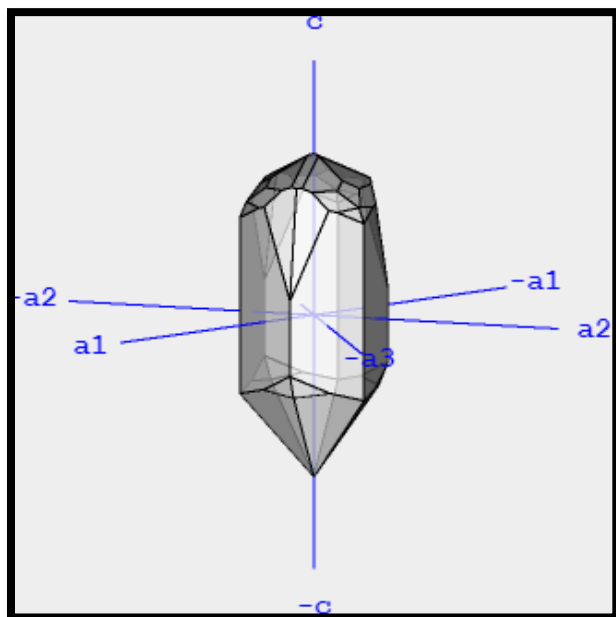


Diagram of Pyrargyrite from Mineral Atlas:  
[www.mineralatlas.eu/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Pyrargyrit](http://www.mineralatlas.eu/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Pyrargyrit), then click on  
Kristall Nr. P269as (U. Baumgärtl).

In the next article, we will look at a dimorph of Pyrargyrite, named Pyrostilpnite, which has the same chemical composition ( $\text{Ag}_3\text{AsS}_3$ ) but a different crystal structure and a different color.

## Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2

by Scott Duresky, Charlottesville VA

I am a self-taught mineralogist who has spent many years researching the minerals that occurred in the historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2 in Amelia County, Virginia. Even though it closed in 1998, it was one of the country's most important localities for Rare Earth Minerals. I gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pegmatite, in collaboration with Michael Pabst, for the MNCA's Atlantic Micromounters' Conference in 2018.

Since that time, I have been working at the Lora Robins Gallery of Design and Nature in Richmond, VA. My task is to re-examine and correctly label their extensive display of the Rutherford Mine minerals. While this relationship is continuing, I am now working with Thomas Hale of the Virginia Mineral Project to establish a permanent Rutherford Mine Research Collection. My research collection will be donated to the Robins Gallery by the end of 2021. It will be administered by the Virginia Mineral Project and will be made available for future generations of collectors and researchers.

I am scheduled to present my updated research at the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference, Spring of 2021. I will be featuring my additional discoveries, as well as updated photographs.

**I could use your help.** If you or any colleagues have minerals from this pegmatite, please contact me. I am seeking material to fill in the gaps. I am encouraging members to consider making donations of their own to the Rutherford Mine Research Collection. I am also open to trading or purchasing such specimens. Thank you! Scott Duresky phone 434-882-3863  
[scott\\_duresky@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_duresky@yahoo.com)

### Oxycalciumicrolite crystal $\text{Ca}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_6\text{O}$

EDS Results:  
Nb2O5 9.34%  
CaO 25.11%  
Ta2O5 65.55%

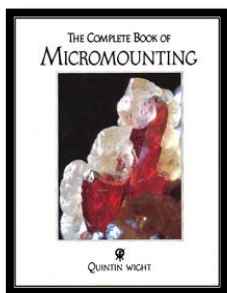


## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Worldwide Micromounting Societies

by Kathy Hrechka, assisted by Col. Quintin Wight

Canadians Col. Quintin and Willow Wight presented their Russian geology journey on October 28 for the MNCA meeting through Zoom. Kathy promoted Quintin's Complete Book of Micromounting, which was published in 1993. Quintin researched each micromineral association around the world, which are listed below. While we may have a unique niche studying tiny minerals, notice the large global presence of micromineral collectors. Quintin also regularly submits articles and photos pertaining to micromounting for Rocks and Minerals magazine, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.



**AMI • Associazione Micro-mineralogica Italiana:** Marco Ciriotti, Via Gioconda, 3 – I-26100 Cremona, Italy. [micro.redazione@alpimedia.it](mailto:micro.redazione@alpimedia.it), [www.amiminerals.org](http://www.amiminerals.org).

#### Arthur M. Roe Memorial Micromount

**Symposium:** Mark Ascher, 3446 N Calle Largo, Tucson AZ 85750.

#### L'Association Française de Microminéralogie:

Robert Pecorini, 9 Allée des Chênes Verts, 13620 Carry-le-Rouet, France. <[www.micromineral.org](http://www.micromineral.org)>

#### L'Association des Micromonteurs de Minéraux de Montigny-le-Tilleul:

Michel Croisez

<[michel.croisez@skynet.be](mailto:michel.croisez@skynet.be)>.

#### Baltimore Mineral Society:

Mike Seeds, 516 Bald Eagle Ct., Lancaster, PA 17603. <[mike.seeds@fandm.edu](mailto:mike.seeds@fandm.edu)>.

**British Micromount Society:** David Binns, 3 The Dene, Hastings, East Sussex. TN35 4PD United Kingdom. <[dgbins@btinternet.com](mailto:dgbins@btinternet.com)>.

#### Canadian Micro Mineral Association:

Frank Ruehlicke, Tel: (519) 880-2716.

<[ruehlicke@rogers.com](mailto:ruehlicke@rogers.com)>.

#### Gruppo Mineralogico Cremonese:

Pier Del Monaco, <[pier.delmonaco@libero.it](mailto:pier.delmonaco@libero.it)>.

#### International Federation of Micromount

**Societies:** Tim Rose, 6371 Rubicon Way, Livermore CA 94550.

#### Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Show:

Don McAlarnen <[donmcarnen@outlook.com](mailto:donmcarnen@outlook.com)>.

#### Microcentro Scandicci: Gruppo A.V.I.S.

Mineralogia Paleontologia Scandicci, Piazza Vittorio 1, 50010 Badia a Settimo Scandicci FI Italy. <[www.gamps.it](http://www.gamps.it)>

#### Micro-Mineral Collectors of New Zealand:

Jocelyn Thornton, 99 Quebec St., Wellington 6023, New Zealand.

#### Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area:

Kathy Hrechka, 7201 Ludwood Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. <[kshrechka@msn.com](mailto:kshrechka@msn.com)>.

#### Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History:

Anne Cook, 684 Quillams Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44121.

#### Micromounters of New England:

Bob Wilken, 79 Meadow Lane, Campton, NH 03223.

<[microxl@mfire.com](mailto:microxl@mfire.com)>

#### Micromounters of New South Wales, Australia:

Noel Kennon, [annoelk@gmail.com](mailto:annoelk@gmail.com)

#### Mineralogical Society of Southern California

(MSSC) (Formerly Southern California Micro-Mineralogists): Dr. Robert Housley, 255 S. Wilson Ave. #2, Pasadena CA 91106 [rhousley@cco.caltech.edu](mailto:rhousley@cco.caltech.edu).

#### Munich Micromounter Group:

Dr. Manfred Seitz, Lohäcker str. 1, D-85551, Kirchheim, Germany.

#### New Jersey Mineralogical Society

Russel N. Brarens, 515 Lincoln Blvd., Middlesex, NJ 08846-2442.

#### Northern California Mineralogical Association:

Theresa Kokinos, [theresa10@directcon.net](mailto:theresa10@directcon.net)

#### Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group:

Dr. Don Howard, 356 SE 44th Ave., Portland, OR 97215-1007.

#### Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

(**Micromounters Playroom**): Quintin Wight, [qwight@sympatico.ca](mailto:qwight@sympatico.ca).

#### South African Micromount Society:

Graham Reeks, PO Box 19, Welobie 1714 South Africa. [uniwit@lantic.net](mailto:uniwit@lantic.net)

#### The Ed and Martha Cunningham ACV Winter

**Gathering of Micromounters:** Dowling Park, Florida. Robert Stevens, 2124 Co Rd 002, Auburn, AL, 36879.

#### Quintinite $Mg_4Al_2CO_3 \cdot 3H_2O$

Mont Saint Hilaire is the co-type locality 1997 - The Canadian Mineralogist.

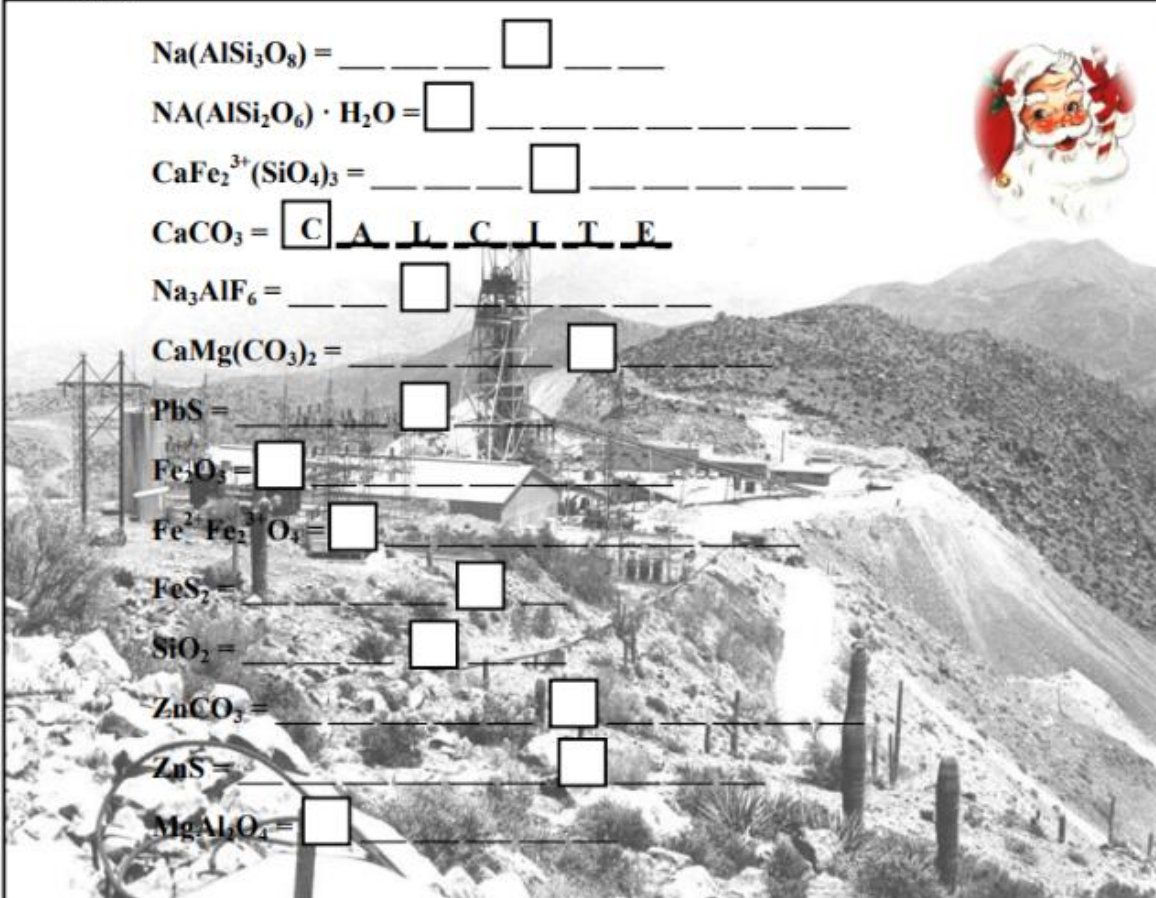
Dakota Matrix photo



**Word Jumble**  
**With a Mineral Chemical ID**

By Eric Brosius

Identify the mineral from the given chemical formula. Unscramble the letters from the boxes in the mineral's name to reveal the word jumble solution. The mineral CALCITE, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, is given as an example. Hint: The pictured mine from Arizona has part of the word jumble solution in its name.



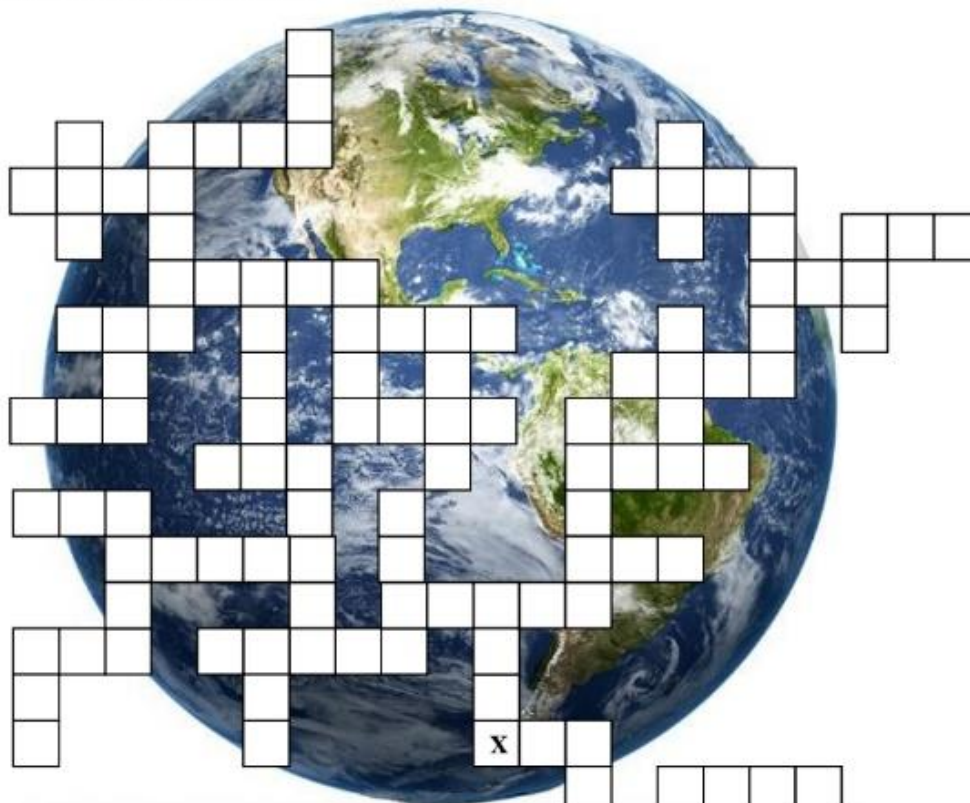
$\text{Na(AlSi}_3\text{O}_8) = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{Na(AlSi}_2\text{O}_6) \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} = \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{CaFe}_2^{3+}(\text{SiO}_4)_3 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{CaCO}_3 = \square \text{ C A L C I T E}$   
 $\text{Na}_3\text{AlF}_6 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{PbS} = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 = \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{O}_4 = \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{FeS}_2 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{SiO}_2 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{ZnCO}_3 = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{ZnS} = \text{---} \square \text{---}$   
 $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4 = \square \text{---}$

\_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

### A Mineral Fill - In Puzzle

By Eric Brosius

Fill - Ins are similar to crossword puzzles, but with words instead of clues. The challenge is to fill in the puzzle by using each given word one time. Keep in mind that two or more words might seem to fit, but there is only one way to use all the words correctly. The solution will appear in December's Rock Chatter.



- |     |     |      |      |       |       |       |
|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| ASH | ORE | CLAY | ONYX |       |       |       |
| BOG | PED | COAL | ROCK |       |       |       |
| GAS | PIT | DUST | RUBY |       |       |       |
| GEL | RAD | GOLD | SALT | ZINC  |       |       |
| GEO | TIN | IRON | SAND | AGATE | OCHER | TOPAZ |
| ICE | VUG | LEAD | SODA | CARAT | PRASE |       |
| MUD | WAD | MARL | TALC | EARTH | SLATE |       |
| OIL | XLS | OPAL | TUFF | FLINT | STONE |       |

## LEGO® Minerals - PRODUCT IDEA

LEGO® Minerals, previously known as "Treasures of the Earth", celebrates the exceptional beauty that Nature can create, combined with the unique enchantment of transparent bricks!

Build the crystals, admire them, collect them, and learn how they formed through hundreds of centuries! The 7 crystals of this collection are: Aquamarine (Emerald) Beryl, Amethyst Geode, Pyrite, Rhodochrosite, Quartz, Blue Cap Tourmaline and Elbaite... and more are coming!

These amazing minerals are built at 1:1 scale with 1170 pieces and it takes several millions of years to reach these very respectable dimensions. Each crystal is provided with an elegant glossy support to enhance their beauty and their collectability! The supports can also be detached to allow holding and displaying each rock as it is. The minerals could also be lit up!

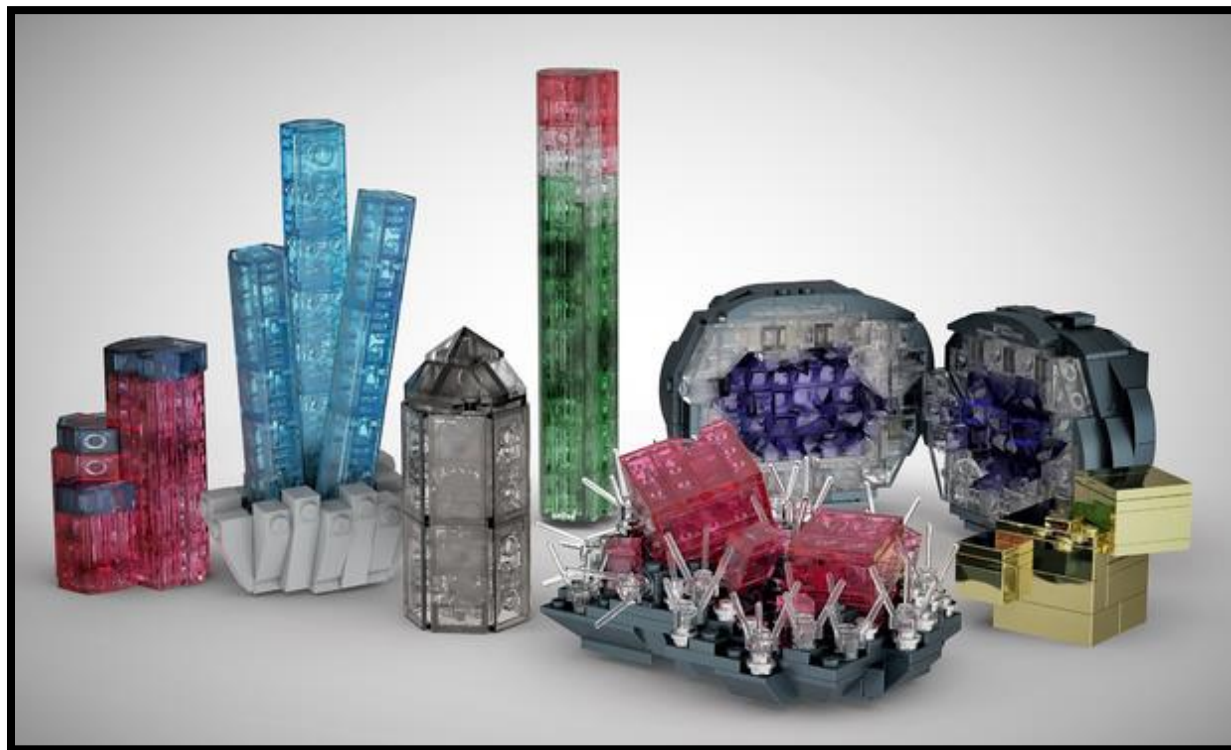
Legos on internet were discovered by Michael Pabst.

Treasures of the Earth is perfect for display but is also an interesting build as many advanced techniques are involved. Minerals are natural geometrical wonders, and it is quite tricky to build on different planes and angles to represent what Nature is capable of! So much fun!!!

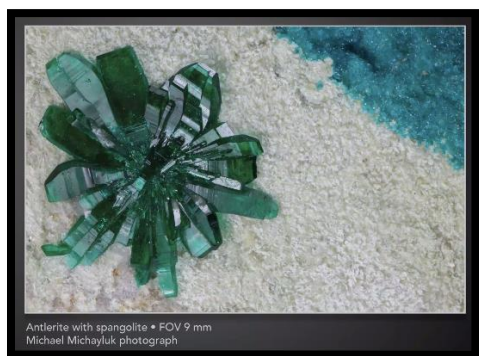
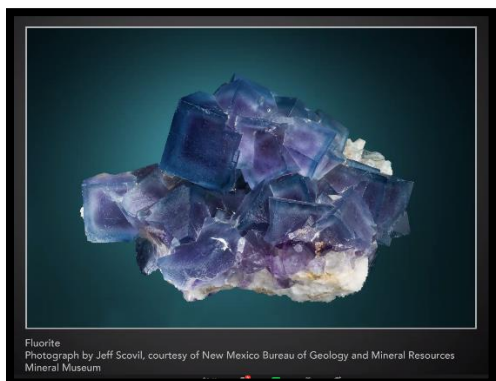
The crystals are quite accurate and could also spark some curiosity: geology and crystallography are such amazing sciences! The collection could even grow larger as different minerals could be added to make it bigger and bigger! Well, this is what collections is all about isn't it!

Comment: I would like to thank the friends who offered very precious comments and suggested the Blue Cap as next mineral. Also, Jolyon, Mr. Mindat, for the incredible work is doing to back up "Treasures" and Naveen of Geology Love, who brought this idea to many. This fine specimen of Tourmaline is special to me, as it has been pre-viewed and "approved" by Mr. Swoboda, the son of the man who first discovered the Blue Caps. I could not hope for higher recognition. Dario

[LEGO IDEAS - LEGO® Minerals](#)

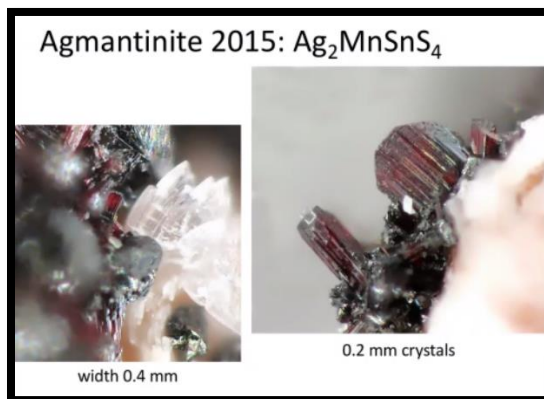
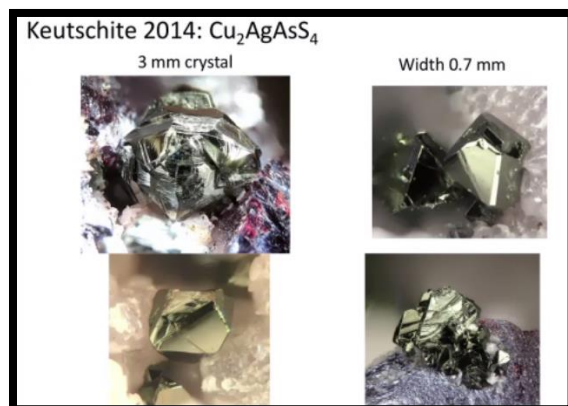


**Virginia Mineral Project on Zoom**  
**New Mexico Minerals: Blanchard Mine**  
 by Erin Delventhal, NM Nov 27, 2020



**Minerals Talk Live: 1pm Wednesdays**  
<http://go.mineraltalkslive.com>

**Frank Keutsch Nov 25, 2020 recap**  
 Frank Keutsch is the Stonington Professor of Engineering and Atmospheric Science at Harvard University in the Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. He has focused on the unusual assemblage of the Uchucchacua mine and has a mineral named in his honor for his efforts in research and mineralogy especially of this mine, Keutschite.



# Virginia Mineral Project

2020 Final Report

## State of the Project...

I think we can all agree 2020 was not the year we planned for. Each of us has been impacted in some way due to COVID. The VMP was dedicated to producing virtual events for the community throughout COVID and ended up engaging in over 20 lectures. While the interviews and photos were difficult to accomplish during 2020, the community engagement and bringing people to the table was a vital step in preserving and promoting Virginia mineral heritage. It is incredible to think that starting this year there were zero lecture based programs on YouTube for Virginia minerals, now there are eight locality presentations preserved for people to learn and get excited about.

Our goal is to continue the field work once COVID-19 has been defeated. Most outreach opportunities and shows for 2021 have already been cancelled but the continued virtual engagement and outreach during 2020 has spread the word about the VMP across the state and nationally. The development of the new [Friends of Mineralogy Chapter](#) in Virginia has also helped people notice the work we are doing here and the mission we have.

Since the last newsletter, the VMP hosted two additional community events and spoke at three other clubs (two in Maryland and one in Maine). In early November, a socially distanced kids geology program was held at the local museum in Roanoke as part of the museum partnership. Our Facebook Group, Virginia Minerals has also reached 722 members! The VMP also helped several clubs go virtual and now the community is getting back to "normal" as we move into 2021.

In January, we will host a meeting in the middle of the month to discuss plans for 2021 and the presentation and community event list for the winter/spring. Until then, stay tuned on [social media](#), watch our videos on [YouTube](#), and keep in touch! We look forward to a new year!

## Watch our recent videos on YouTube!



### CLEANING & PREPARING MINERAL SPECIMENS



## A Sneak Peak into 2021...

Although COVID-19 has reduced the ability to do field work, there have been several ongoing work projects under the mission of the VMP that we are excited to share more about in the coming months! One of these include the development of the Rutherford Mine Research Collection in collaboration with Scott Duresky and the Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature at Richmond University. In short, we are working hard to ensure classic locations, such as the Rutherford are preserved and specimens can be photographed and used for educational programming. There will be some big news from this work and presentations in the future! We have also been discussing what localities we want to highlight in our winter/spring lineup for 2021. Some plans so far include:

- Herbb No. 2 Pegmatite, Powhatan Co., Virginia
- Gold in Virginia
- Morefield Mine, Amelia Co., Virginia
- Virginia Collectors (a review of some of the state's most prolific collectors)
- *Minerals of Virginia* Deep Dive (a look at the book that changed the state)

We have received great feedback from our mineral collection presentations on cleaning, labeling, etc. and will have new discussions on mounting, displaying, etc. for next year! We hope to see you there!



## A well traveled Apophyllite!

Check out this recent acquisition by Alex Venzke, one of our VMP members!

Hydroxyapophyllite-(K), prehnite  
Fairfax Quarry, Centreville, Fairfax Co. Virginia  
Matt McGill Photograph  
7.0cm  
Ex Rock Currier Specimen  
Collection of Alex Venzke



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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



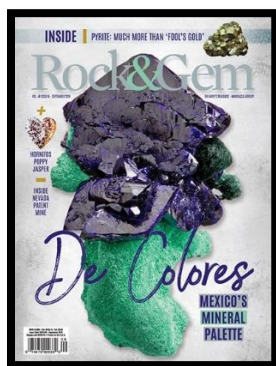
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)  
<https://efmls.org>

**Please read the AFMS bulletin attached in original monthly email to MNCA members.**

2020 Purpose of the AFMS: To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is normally published monthly except January, July, and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor. Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office.



The Rock & Gem magazine is recognized as the official magazine of the AFMS.

Communication and Involvement  
Are the Keys to Our Success!

**Please read the EFMLS bulletin attached in original monthly email to MNCA members.**

**Local Geology Club Meetings: Zoom  
December 2020**

**3: Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia - MSDC 7:30 Zoom** Dr. Jeff Post  
[www.mineralsocietyofdc.org](http://www.mineralsocietyofdc.org)

**14: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMSMC**  
7:30 pm - Zoom [www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)

**18: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington, DC - GLMS-DC meeting**  
[www.glmsdc.org](http://www.glmsdc.org)

**23: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. - MNCA (regular meeting date)**  
7:30pm Zoom **Steve Sorrell from Australia**  
Program: "An Introduction to the Minerals of Victoria, Australia"  
[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

**28: Northern VA Mineral Club – NVMC meeting**  
7:30 Zoom [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

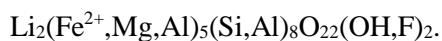




**GeoWord of the Day and its definition:**

**calcybeborosilite-(Y)** (cal'-cy-be-bor'-o-sil-ite-y) A colorless to greenish-gray monoclinic mineral: (Ca,Y)(B,Be)(OH)(SiO<sub>4</sub>). A member of the *datolite* group.

**clinoferroholmquistite** A theoretical member of the *amphibole* group, the Fe<sup>2+</sup>-Al member of the *clinoholmquistite* series:



All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by: EnviroTech!

[envirotechonline.comwordoftheday@agiweb.org](http://envirotechonline.comwordoftheday@agiweb.org)

**Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area Meeting:** The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.  
Long Branch Nature Center (No meetings July & Aug)  
625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington VA 22204  
Phone (703) 228-6535 (Long Branch is still closed)

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

- President: Dave MacLean
- Vice President: David Fryauff
- Secretary: Bob Cooke
- Treasurer: Michael Pabst
- Editor/Historian: Kathy Hrechka
- Website: Julia Hrechka
- AMC Conference: Kathy Hrechka

**The society is a member of:**

- \* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) [www.efmls.org](http://www.efmls.org)
- \* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) affiliation

**Dues:** MNCA Membership Dues  
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)  
**Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer**  
270 Rachel Drive  
Penn Laird, VA 22846

**A Mineral Fill - In Puzzle**  
By Eric Brosius

Fill - Ins are similar to crossword puzzles, but with words instead of clues. The challenge is to fill in the puzzle by using each given word one time. Keep in mind that two or more words might seem to fit, but there is only one way to use all the words correctly. The solution will appear in December's Rock Chatter.

ASH	ORE	CLAY	ONYX					
BOG	PED	COAL	ROCK					
GAS	PIT	DUST	RUBY					
GEL	RAD	GOLD	SALT	ZINC	AGATE	OCHER	TOPAZ	
GEO	TIN	IRON	SAND	AGATE	CARAT	PRASE		
ICE	VUG	LEAD	SODA	EARTH	SLATE	STONE		
MUD	WAD	MARL	TALC	EARTH	SLATE	STONE		
OIL	XLS	OPAL	TUFF	FLINT	STONE			



**Editor's Note:**  
By  
Kathy Hrechka



Send your articles and photos to your editor.  
**Club Article Deadline is 1st of each month.**  
**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 5th.**  
No newsletter July/August

**Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame – 2018**  
**AFMS Trophy 2019 Small bulletins**



**Newsletter inputs:**

- \*Dave MacLean
- \*Scott Braley
- \*Michael Pabst
- \*Kathy Hrechka
- \*Drs. L&C Kearns
- \*Eric Brosius
- \*Scott Duresky
- \*Steve Sorrell
- \*Quintin Wight

