



MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org
The Mineral Mite



Vol. 51 – No. 10

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists December 2018

December 17 Time: 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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



Holiday Party Dec 17 MNCA / NVMC

Our club, along with the Northern VA Mineral Club are jointly hosting this year's holiday party at the Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington.

NVMC will provide fried chicken, and honey-baked ham. MNCA will provide drinks. Please contribute needed food. Open link below at sign up genius for your rsvp and food contribution.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AADAF2AA46-northern>

If you would like to participate in the gift ex-change, please remember to bring a gift valued between \$5 and \$20. Label micro for MNCA members. Thank you. Looking forward to seeing everyone at this wonderful holiday celebration! *Holly Perlick and Marie Johnston, NVMC*



Photo of the Month



President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean

We continue to receive lots of curious and sometimes eager kids to look at the little crystals thru a loupe or microscope. Attracting adults in the same way is an opportunity for us. thank you for all who demoed at the NVMC show.



We celebrate a good year with an April blockbuster conference with Herwig Pelckmans from the Mineralogische Kling Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium as our speaker and interesting meetings.

As we celebrate the holidays, let us look forward to the new year and also consistently remember and act on behalf of those persons who lack housing, adequate food, medical care, and loving relationships and who are at risk of oppressions, abuse, and death as their constant companions.

**Remember MNCA Elections Dec 17
2019 MNCA Officer Election Notice**

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

Millerite, Bay Port Quarry in Michigan
Erich Grundel shared Millerite micros collected from the Bay Port Quarry in Michigan with members who were present at the November MNCA meeting.
Photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka at the meeting by using her cell phone camera, positioned through her microscope eye piece.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 11/14/18

By John Kress, acting Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President David MacLean at the Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington, VA. Past President recognized: Barry Remer. Minutes from the October meeting were approved as published in the Mite.



Old Business: Coverage of our table at the NVMC show at George Mason University November 17th and 18th is set. President MacLean asked that supplies and equipment remaining at the close of the show be packed up and retained for future use by our club. A new geology chair has been appointed at James Madison University. Club members felt it would be important for us to contact that person and explore mutual interests and activities and continue the good working relationships between our club and the department. President MacLean will contact Mike Pabst to see whether he could do this for the club. Included in the discussion would be to continue our annual “field trip” workshop to the Harrisonburg campus. Club members asked that we explore a similar “field trip” workshop at George Mason University suggesting contact be made with Julia Nord during the upcoming NVMC show.

New Business: President MacLean spoke with Helen Reimer who would like to donate books, larger rock specimens and mineral magazines to the club or others that could make use of them. He will pick up the magazines and bring them to the NVMC show and see if Julia Nord can use them at GMU. Our joint holiday party with NVMC is scheduled for Monday, December 17th at 6:30 pm at the Long Branch Nature Center, our regular meeting place.

David Fryauff reported that public comment on the BLM’s proposed opening of public lands including the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah to hobby and amateur mineral collectors will end November 30th. He asked members to support this proposal. David MacLean will send a letter from the MNCA in support of this proposed change. A field trip to the Manassas Quarry will take place December 1st. Be at the quarry with protective gear at 7:30 am. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Membership Dues: 2019
Single = \$15. Family = \$20.

Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer 270 Rachel Drive Penn Laird, VA 22846

Previous Program Reviewed: 11/14/18

By John Kress, acting Secretary

Erich Grundel shared Millerite micros collected from the Bay Port Quarry in Michigan with members present. The balance of the meeting was devoted to inspecting the C. Carter Rich micro material. Club members chose their selections while donating to our club treasury.



Erich Grundel – C. Carter Rich Early in 1990 Carter transferred his inventory of microminerals to me and I in return would give it to our group; the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. He told me to take examples of each item, which I did. I mounted the specimens and added them to my catalog. However, I kept these mounts separate from the rest of my collection. The remaining material was turned over to Paul Smith for the MNCA in November 1990.

Years later I found in the trash where I live a very nice wooden jewelry case. I visited one of our members, the late Joe Murter. Joe was both handy and artistic. He knew the owner of a smoke shop from whom he received countless cigar boxes. He fashioned the boxes into trays and built shelves for them. I had some small caps from screw top vials that I glued to the front of the trays, so I can pull them out. The entire Rich collection fit perfectly into the case. That is what you see in the accompanying photo.

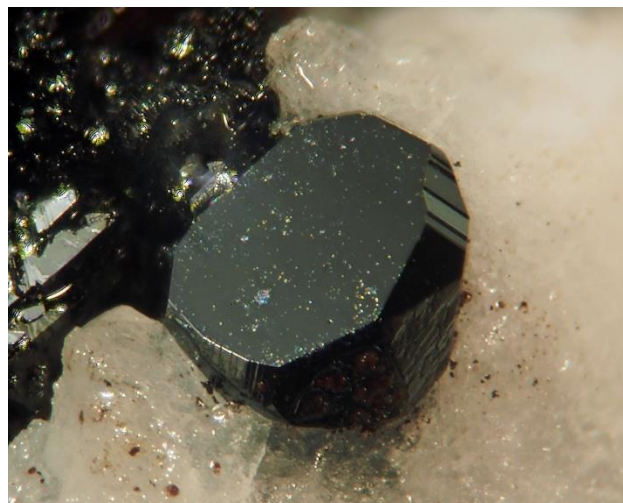
Gaodefroyite

By Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

This month we are looking at a **black** manganese mineral, Gaodefroyite, $\text{Ca}_4\text{Mn}^{3+}_3(\text{BO}_3)_3(\text{CO}_3)\text{O}_3$.

Most black manganese minerals are oxides or hydroxides. Gaodefroyite is complex, being a borate, and a carbonate, and an oxide. Gaodefroyite occurs in nice black hexagonal crystals (in class 6, which means the crystals might not be symmetrical top-to-bottom). The best specimens come from the Tachgagalt Mine of Morocco, the type locality, or from the Kalahari manganese field of South Africa.

Here is my specimen of Gaodefroyite, which I purchased from Excalibur Minerals in Charlottesville:



Gaodefroyite? Hematite? on white Barite, Wessels Mine, FOV 2 mm. Stack of 7 photos taken with macro lens. Photo by Michael Pabst. (I chose this crystal to photograph because of its white background.)



Gaodefroyite from Wessels Mine, Hotazel, Kalahari manganese field, Northern Cape Province, Republic of South Africa. FOV 7 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst. Stack of 28 photos taken with Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II camera with 60 mm macro lens, using focus bracketing. Stack processed by CombineZP software and edited with Photoshop Elements 2018.

Here is another smaller crystal from the same specimen that shows less symmetry (or perhaps it is really another mineral?):

For another example, I like this stereo photo of Gaodefroyite with red Andradite garnet on Mindat, taken by Tony Peterson: www.mindat.org/photo-527117.html. This is a “crossed-eye” stereo pair, and it is fun to see if you can get the 3D effect to work.

Gaodefroyite was named for Christophe Gaodefroy [1878-1971], who was a priest and professor of mineralogy for 30 years at the Catholic Institute of Paris, and directed the mineralogical laboratory of The Sorbonne, and in 1949 began research at the Division of Geology of Morocco. He was a friend of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the French Jesuit, who trained in paleontology and geology, and became a well-known, if controversial, philosopher and evolutionary biologist, favored by “New Age” proponents and those who don’t believe that evolution occurs “by chance”.

Next month, we will continue with another black manganese mineral. But speaking of black minerals, I hope that none of my readers will be receiving Anthracite for Christmas.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

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

plagioplite (pla-gi-ap'-lite) An *aplite* composed chiefly of plagioclase (oligoclase to andesine), possibly green hornblende, and accessory quartz, biotite, and muscovite; a fine-grained *diorite*. Obsolete.

Schoenflies notation (Schoen'-flies) A system of describing crystal classes by means of symbols used esp. by physicists and chemists. Cf: *Hermann-Mauguin symbols*. Syn: *Schoenflies symbols*; *international symbols*.

vanalite (van'-al-ite) A bright yellow-orange monoclinic mineral: $\text{NaAl}_8\text{V}_{10}\text{O}_{38} \cdot 30\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

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

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference April 5-6, 2019

Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Virginia
Speaker, Dr. Robert Lauf of Tennessee
Published author of *Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium*

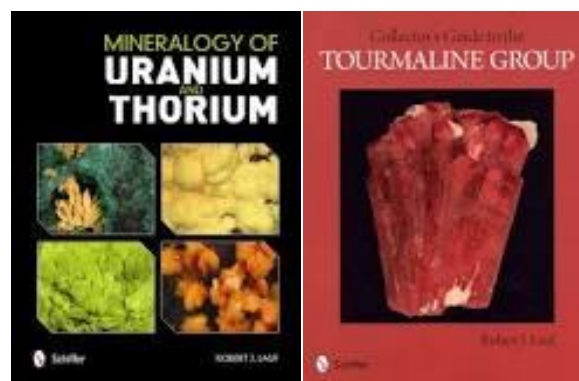
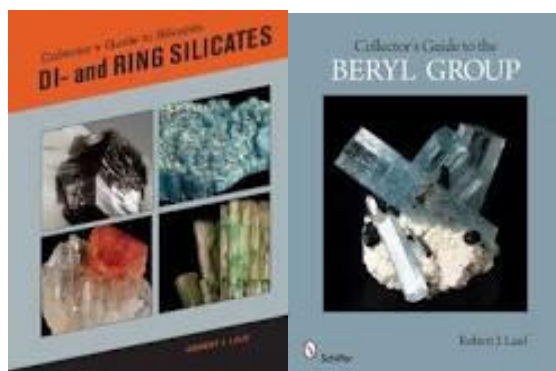
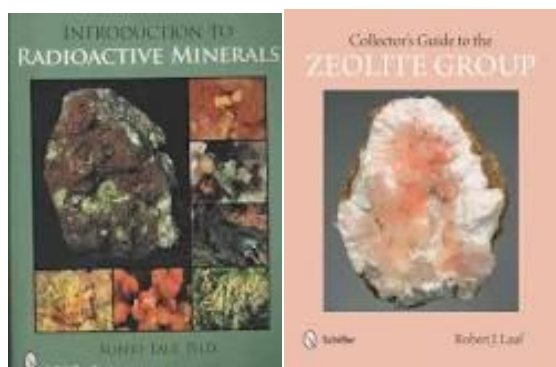


Author, Robert Lauf holds a Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Illinois. His scientific career included over twenty years at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he conducted research on topics ranging from nuclear fuel, coal by-products, materials synthesis, microwave processing, sensors, optical materials, and biomineralization. He has been granted fifty U.S. Patents for his inventions, many of which have become successful industrial products. He is now a Registered Patent Agent and technology consultant.



Choices of topics: Choose three

- *Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium
- *Orthosilicates
- *Di- and Ring Silicates
- *The Garnet Group
- *The Tourmaline Group
- *Titania: Rutile, Anatase, and Brookite
- *Industrial and Consumer Uses of Minerals
- *The Zeolite Group
- *The Mica Group
- *The Layer Titanosilicates (astrophyllite, bafertisite, and nafertisite groups)



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

AFMS Purpose: 2018

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 other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

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<central_office@amfed.org> 410-833-7926
Content – Letters Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor: Carolyn Weinberger PO Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org> 410-833-7926

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)
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**Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies**

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

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

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

Geology Events:

December

**10: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMS-MC**
7:45 pm - Rockville Senior Center, Rockville, MD
www.glmsmc.com

15: Mineralogical Society of DC - MSDC
Holiday party home of Dave & Leslie Nanney
www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org

**16: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Washington, DC - GLMS-DC**
7:00 pm - Chevy Chase Community Center,
5601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Chevy Chase, MD
www.glmsdc.org

**17: Micromineralogists of the National Capital
Area / Northern VA Mineral Club Holiday party**
Speaker Dr. Mike Wise, Mineral Sciences Dept. Nat-
ural History Museum, Smithsonian
6:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA
www.dcmicrominerals.org
www.novamineralclub.org

**Snow Policy: If Arlington County
schools are closed on the day of our
meeting, we are cancelled too.**



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

43rd Leidy Microscopical Society MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM

By Don McAlarnen

****NEW LOCATION****
Advent Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Rd
Richboro, PA 18954



Two Days
Friday March 8, 2019
noon to 6pm
&
Saturday March 9
9am to 6pm
(Lunch provided on
Saturday)

TABLE SPACE \$20.00
RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES

CLUB SALES TABLE - MINERALS - SUPPLIES



Reservations/ Admission: Send
Check for \$20.00 checks payable to;
Don McAlarnen,
916 Senator Rd, East Norriton, PA
19403
(610) 584-1364

Email: donmcarnen@outlook.com

*Hampton Inn, 1000 Stoney Hill Rd, Yardley, Pa.
19067 (215) 860-1700 (at I-295 & Rt. 332 exit approx.

8. Hotels:

5, miles from show)

* Brick Hotel, 1 Washington Av., Newtown, Pa. 18940
(267) 685-6443 (in Newtown, approx. 5.5 miles from
show)

*Temperance House, 5 S State St, Newtown, Pa. 18940
(215) 944-8050

*Motel 6, 265 E. Street Rd., Warminster, Pa 18974
(215) 674-2200

* Holiday Inn Express, 240 Veterans Way, Warminster,
Pa. 18974 (215) 443-4300

*Wyndham, 4700 E. Street Rd, Feasterville, Pa. 19053
(215) 364-2000

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area

Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.
Long Branch Nature Center (No meetings June & July)
625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington VA 22204

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

Pres: Dave MacLean, dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com
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Website: Julia Hrechka, dcmicrominerals@gmail.com
Conference: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com

The society is a member of:

* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS) www.amfed.org/efmls

*American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
(AFMS) www.amfed.org Affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2018
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)

Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer
270 Rachel Drive
Penn Laird, VA 22846



Editor's Note:

By
Kathy Hrechka



Send your articles and photos to your editor.
Club Article Deadline is 5th of each month.

The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 10th.

No newsletter July/August

EFMLS Editor's Award

First Place 2016 - Small Bulletins

Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame - 2018



Member inputs:

- * Dave MacLean
- * Michael Pabst
- * David Fryauff
- * Kathy Hrechka
- * Don McAlarnen
- * Dr. Robert Lauf

