

MNCA Website [www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)



# The Mineral Mite

Vol. 53 – No. 2

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists

February 2020

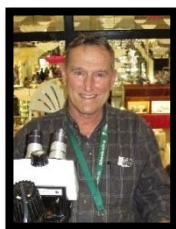
**February 26 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

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

## **Program: Victor Yount's Moroc: Minerals of Morocco Dvd viewing**

by David Fryauff, Vice president

We will also view the Dallas Symposium Dvd of Dr. David London, University of Oklahoma presentation entitled "Gem-forming pegmatites: How nature makes big, clear crystals." Dr. London's research pertains to the chemical evolution of felsic magmas.



**Workshop:** Club members bring micros to share. George Reimherr's micros: Bob Cooke and Michael Pabst will update us on their progress.

## **President's Message:**

by Dave MacLean

Our biggest event AMC, Atlantic Micromounters Conference comes on April 3-5 in Alexandria, VA. Two of our featured events are the live and silent auction of micro's. The winning bid receives the mounted mineral and a color print of the micromineral.



Michael Pabst receives micro mineral donations, mounts them as needed and prepares the digital photos. I admire how he selects the optimal exposure, magnifications etc. to bring out the best in each micromineral. Now we need attractive mounted and unmounted micros for the auction.

Sharing with each other is part of MNCA. Please bring your donated micros to our February or March meetings or send them the Michael J. Pabst, 270 Rachel Drive, Penn Laird, VA 22846

**MNCA club member dues are due:  
\$15 individual \$20 family - Details p 10**

JMU Update: Geology friends, you will receive an invitation to attend somewhere around end of February or beginning of March. This will ask for an RSVP response from anyone going. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THIS SAVE-THE-DATE NOTICE AND THE INVITATION TO FOLLOW gets distributed to all your club members.

Lance E. Kearns, Mineral Museum Curator

## **Photo of the Month**



**Zincolivenite**, Gold Hill Mine, Tooele County, Utah. Field of view is 2 mm. Photomicrography Mike Seeds

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 1/22/20

by Bob Cooke, Secretary



In the absence of President Dave MacLean, Treasurer Michael Pabst called the meeting to order at 7 PM, January 22, 2020. Michael recognized past President Tom Tucker. Nine members were present: Bob Cooke, Dave Fryauff, Jeff Guerber, Dennis Hedrick, Kathy Hrechka, Karen & Michael Pabst, Barry Remer and Tom Tucker.

**Old business:** Members approved the minutes of the November and December meetings, as published in the Mineral Mite.

Michael gave a Treasurer's report and presented reasons why the club needs to increase the funds in its accounts. Every year the balance has been decreasing slightly. In January, the club received \$200 in loupe sales but dispersed double that in rent and insurance fees.

**Conference update:** Kathy reviewed the planning for AMC on April 3-5. Minor follow-up actions are required, but all is under control. Kathy announced that she acquired several copies of Victor Yount's video on the Minerals of Morocco. The group agreed that the video should be the monthly program for February. Members adjourned at 9:30 PM.

### Previous Program Reviewed 1/22/20

by Bob Cooke, Secretary

Michael Pabst showed photographs of 56 micromounts from the George Reimherr collection that he has taken in preparation for auctions at the 2020 AMC. Members agreed that most of these specimens should be sold at the 2020 AMC and the remaining micromounts would be retained for auction at the 2021 AMC. One micromount was labelled as "Unknown" and would be reserved for future identification. None of the photographed micros were to be returned to the general stock for member sales.

**MNCA Editor's Note:** Michael Pabst from Penn Laird, VA will be one of the featured speakers at our AMC on April 3, 2020. He also photographs all microminerals for the voice auction.

Below is a preview of two microminerals from the George Reimherr collection that will be auctioned at the Live Auction at the upcoming AMC, Atlantic Micromounters' Conference. Photomicrography by Michael Pabst



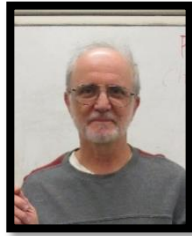
**Sphero-cobaltite.** Bou Azzer, Morocco. FOV 6 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, taken with Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II camera, with Olympus M.Zuiko ED 60 mm f2.8 macro lens in tandem with a Raynox DCR-250 Super Macro Lens. Stacked 23 images with CombineZP.



**Boleite,** Boleo District, Santa Rosalia, Baja California Sur, Mexico. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, taken with Olympus 60 mm macro lens in tandem with Raynox DCL-250 lens, and stacking 22 images.

## Erich Grundel Awarded Honorary MNCA Membership 2020

**Erich Grundel** attended his first MNCA conference in 1977. He became a member around the same time. During the next few years he held several positions in and initiated some permanent activities for MNCA.



In the Fall of 1979, a chance encounter with Dr. Lance Kearns at James Madison University led to yearly field trips to JMU. Also, as treasurer of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, he saw to it that JMU students would receive scholarships from the Foshag fund. Other clubs have followed in our footsteps.

In the 1970's and 80's he led MNCA field trips to new mineral locations, which he had discovered. Among them were Sugar Grove, West Virginia; Buck Hill, Virginia; some long-abandoned Virginia manganese mines and others. Erich has also discovered new locations in other places in North America. All these locations are still viable, and some are still being actively investigated by members, such as Tom Tucker, and others. These places are known to collectors throughout the world thanks to lectures and published articles.

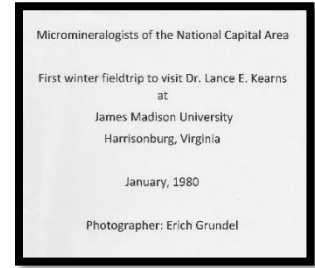
Erich is a tinkerer. He has several homemade gadgets for micromounting. Among them are a continuously rotating viewing stage; a device for mounting sub-millimeter specimens; and various pedestal holders in lieu of growing a third arm.

Early on he advocated for using cell phones for microscopy and photography of microminerals. Currently he is investigating, with the help of MNCA members, using digital microscopes for our educational outreach.

Over the 60+ years Erich has been a collector and have accumulated an unwieldy horde of material. Slowly he has been giving it away and, now and then, adding a new specimen to his collection.

## 1980 Field Trip with Dr. Kearns JMU

Original photos by Erich Grundel



Dr Lance E. Kearns with Paul Smith



Above: Phil Cosminsky instructing in the geology lab



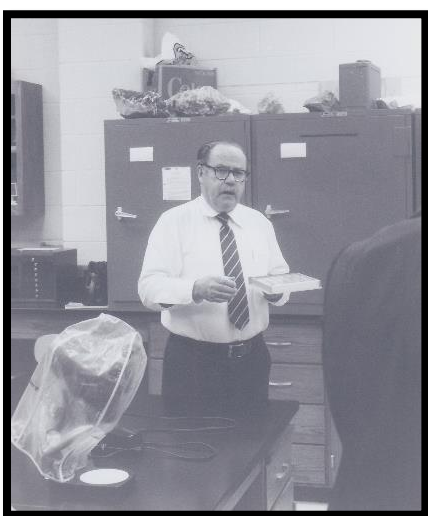
Photo of Cynthia Payne & Ruth Wurtz

**1980 JMU Field Trip continue**



*I want to thank everyone for making me an Honorary Member of MNCA. In my humble opinion there are others more deserving. I joined in 1977. At that time many of the founders and earliest members were active. Two of them in particular became my friends: Grant Edwards and Vernon Wertz.*

*Grant, his young son Tommy and I did some exploring for new localities. He was one of the most knowledgeable collectors I ever knew. His premature death deprived our group of one of the most valuable members we ever had. When I submitted my first article for our bulletin, Vernon fell all over himself to thank me. As editor he had trouble getting original articles from the members. It was a small thing I did but it helped Vernon motivate others by holding up a neophyte as an example.*



*There are two activities that I feel are my most important contributions to our mutual interest and our success. The first was my search for new localities. Several of the discoveries I made have become well known to collectors throughout the world through publications and word of mouth. If all goes well, I will present a paper at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium in 2020. I have found a very interesting new locality for remarkable micro crystals (can't reveal more until it is published).*



*The second contribution has been my outreach to teachers. Over the years I helped teachers at four universities in various ways as well as a few high school teachers. The one you know best is our now 40-year affiliation with Dr. Lance Kearns at James Madison University. Although all my contacts have retired or died, I'm still at it. This year I initiated a new contact with a teacher who has generated much excitement for minerals among his students. Some of you have met him and almost all of you have met at least one of his students (hint: a young face at our conference).*

*I mentioned I was once a neophyte. I still am. I have been collecting since 1956 although it may have started earlier. In a few weeks I will be going for the first time to the apex of the mineral collectors' world: Tucson. I have submitted an application to exhibit. A new horizon for me. As the saying goes, better late than never. I wish all of you only the best things in life. I'll probably be coming back this way on occasion. I'm sure I will be seeing at least a few of you in the future. Erich*

**Last tour with Dr. Lance E. Kearns...2018**



**Please Save the Date** to celebrate the grand re-opening of the JMU Mineral Museum and the premiere of the Peter L. Via Collection. Our dazzling display also features the Richard S. Mitchell Memorial Collection of Virginia Minerals and the original JMU mineral collection, all in their brand-new location.

**Friday, April 17, 2020**  
**4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**reception and program**

A formal invitation will follow in February 2020, including details on museum tours.

Geology friends, you will receive an invitation to attend somewhere around end of February or beginning of March. This will ask for an RSVP response from anyone going. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THIS SAVE-THE-DATE NOTICE AND THE INVITATION TO FOLLOW gets distributed to all your club members.

Lance E. Kearns, Mineral Museum Curator

Information, contact Donor Relations  
Sonner Hall, 481 Bluestone Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
Ann Marie Coe 540.568.7274  
[coeam@jmu.edu](mailto:coeam@jmu.edu)

## A Miracle at New Cliffe Hill Quarry

by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

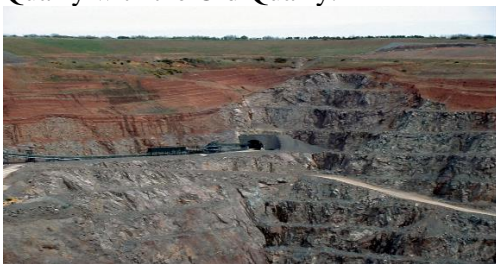
A Long Time Ago (circa 1994-1996) in a Quarry Far, Far Away (Leicestershire, England), a small mineralogical miracle occurred--a miracle involving Copper. A quarry that was mined for uniformly uninteresting granite road rock briefly displayed a seam of copper with beautiful secondary minerals. Predictably, I missed this miracle. Now in 2020, I could go to England, but the copper seam is long gone. Nevertheless, here is my report of my *Virtual and Imaginary Field Trip* to the New Cliffe Hill Quarry near Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire, England. This expedition was made possible by the generosity of George Reimherr and his English trading partner George W. Fletcher from Derbyshire UK, who provided gorgeous specimens.



More information on the Quarry is available on Mindat: [www.mindat.org/loc-1590.html](http://www.mindat.org/loc-1590.html). From this Mindat page, you can see a list of all the copper minerals, and view some beautiful photomicrographs, like Connellite: [www.mindat.org/photo-3678.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-3678.html), and Azurite: [www.mindat.org/photo-24883.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-24883.html). There is also a beautifully illustrated article in the *UK Journal of Mines and Minerals*: Hubbard N, Burchmore S, Green D, 2005, Supergene Minerals from New Cliffe Hill Quarry, *UK Journal of Mines and Minerals*, **26**: 31-42. Thanks to these excellent resources, and with the help of my microscope and camera, I can imagine being there....

### Virtual Field Trip Report:

The Quarry is active, although it is running out of space to expand. Here is a photo of the Quarry (*from Mindat* [www.mindat.org/photo-124522.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-124522.html)). There is a tunnel in the center of the photo that connects the New Quarry with the Old Quarry.



New Cliffe Hill Quarry, Leicestershire, England.

On the morning of my collecting trip, the weather was fine and warm, just as the beer had been fine and warm the evening before. After breakfasting on kippers and baked beans, I was ready for a day of smashing rocks. The first specimen I found was a keeper. It is a remarkably beautiful example of Cuprite on Malachite. (*Actually, a few years ago, many of us in MNCA received beautiful specimens from George Reimherr.*) When I put it under the scope, I was amazed. The Cuprite looked like a city skyline, with red buildings on a green lawn of Malachite.



**Cuprite on Malachite**, New Cliffe Hill Quarry, Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire, UK. Photo by Michael Pabst. Collected by George Fletcher in August 1996. FOV 3 mm.

Having whacked my finger with a rock hammer -- again, I was on my way to the car for band aides, when I caught sight of another wonderful specimen that featured Vésigniéite with Cuprite and Malachite.

Continued next page

## New Cliffe Hill Quarry continued

(Actually, this specimen is among the micromounts that MNCA bought from George's collection.) Under most conditions, Vésigniéite is only a moderately attractive mineral. But this rock was astonishing. The bright yellow Vésigniéite flower is perched on the rim of a small canyon filled with red Cuprite cuboctahedrons on a lawn of green Malachite.



**Vésigniéite with Cuprite on Malachite**, New Cliffe Hill Quarry, Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire, UK. Photo by Michael Pabst. FOV 5 mm.

(Vésigniéite is  $BaCu_3(VO_4)_2(OH)_2$ . Another nice example of Vésigniéite is shown on Mindat: [www.mindat.org/photo-3354.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-3354.html).)

I looked in vain for Azurite and Connellite and Strashimirite and Silver, but I ran out of luck and energy, and so retired to the local pub to rehydrate on real ale. Next day I was summoned to Buckingham Palace on urgent business, so I had to say goodbye to the New Cliffe Hill Quarry. But this Quarry will always be one of my favorite localities and memories, and I will keep looking for recycled specimens.

But, for now, your virtual reporter wishes you a Hearty Goodbye from Merry Olde England. By-the-by, rumor has it that this Vésigniéite specimen will be available at the 2020 Atlantic Micromounters' Conference Auction at Alexandria in the former Virginia colony. Bidders are warned to bring plenty of £.

## AMC Micromineral Auction Preview

Below is a preview of two microminerals from the George Reimherr collection that will be auctioned at the Live Auction at the upcoming AMC, Atlantic Micromounters' Conference. Photomicrography by Michael Pabst



**Adamite (cuprian)**, Lavrion District, Greece. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, taken with Olympus 60 mm macro lens in tandem with Raynox DCL-250 lens, and stacking 23 images.



**Fluorite**, Florence Mine, Egremont, Cumbria, England. FOV 8 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, taken with Olympus 60 mm macro lens in tandem with Raynox DCL-250 lens, and stacking 21 images.

## Shoobox Adventures 91: Delicate

by Mike Seeds Editor BMS

Ship models and Chinese paper cuttings and maidenhair ferns are fascinating in their airy delicacy. I find it hard to resist the repeating patterns and openwork of greeting cards with filigree cutouts, and certain minerals are mesmerizing because they are so delicate. What does that mean and why do those minerals hold our attention?



As an example of a delicate mineral consider the spray of zincolivenite shown in Figure 1. The crystals are long and narrow and spring from a central point of growth. In fact, look carefully and you will see two sprays, one in front of the other. They combine to form a tiny sculpture that creates and encloses a volume no bigger than a tiny bead. The beauty of the spray is not in its color or crystal terminations, but in the space it occupies and the openness of its structure.



Fig. 1 **Zincolivenite**, Gold Hill Mine, Tooele County, Utah. Field of view is 2 mm. Photo by Mike Seeds

Not every mineral that is tiny is delicate. Consider the gudmundite crystal shown in Figure 2. It is a tiny octahedron only about 0.2 mm across, so small and so shiny it is difficult to photograph. It looks like just a touch might knock it off of its matrix. The little crystal defines and occupies a volume of space, and it could easily be damaged or lost, but it does not have the delicacy of the zincolivenite spray. Perhaps the gudmundite is not delicate in the sense we are considering because it is not transparent. We cannot see the internal volume of space that it occupies.

Even if it were transparent and glassy, we would not think of it as delicate. To be delicate, it would have to be open so we could experience the volume of its interior just as we might look into an empty room or a hollow box.

Many sculptures impress us not by the marble or steel of the structure, but by the space they enclose. Children love empty cardboard boxes and complex playground equipment in part because they enclose empty spaces. In these cases, it isn't the thing, it's the space the thing defines.

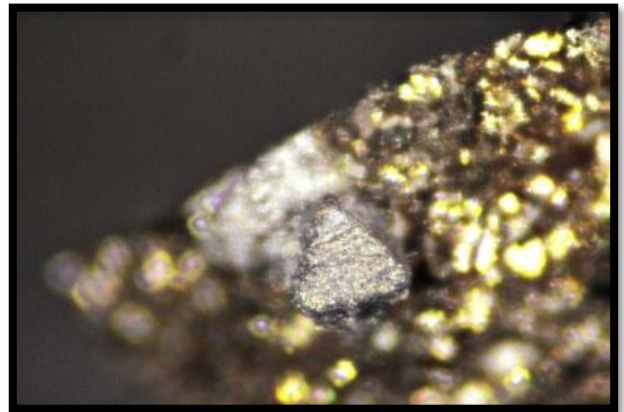


Fig. 2 **Gudmundite**, Uranium Mine #19, Dubenec, Příbram, Central Bohemian Region, Czech Republic. Field of view is 1 mm. Photo by Mike Seeds

Fragile is not the same as delicate. The cyanotrichite in Figure 3 is fragile in that a careless fingertip could smear the mass of blue crystals into a cyanosmudge, but even though it is made up of a cluster of crystals, it does not have the openwork delicacy of the zincolivenite. In fact, the mass of blue crystals is so smushed together it is just a mass of blue and highlights. Individual crystals are almost impossible to pick out and, most importantly for this discussion, the crystals do not visibly enclose a space. They do not define a volume. So, the specimen is fragile without being delicate.

Continued next page



Shoobox Adventures continued

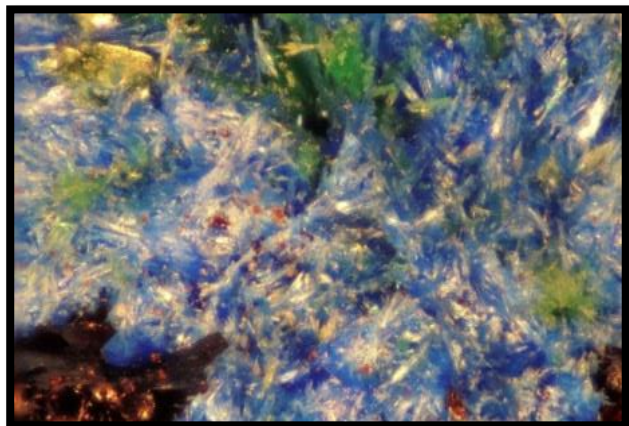


Fig. 3 **Cyanotrichite Malachite**, Sepon Mine, Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province, Laos. Field of view is 2 mm. Photo by Mike Seeds

The kusam tree of south-east Asia produces seeds that yield Makassar oil which quite some decades ago men put on their hair to make it shine and lay flat. My Grandma Seeds crocheted doilies called antimacassars for the backs of chairs to protect them from oily headed men. Those doilies were astonishingly intricate with knots and twists and tiny empty gaps outlining flowers and pinecones and vines beyond a little boy's imagination. They were delicate in that they were openwork that enclosed and defined spaces that could hold one's thoughts as a cage might hold a bird.

I am fascinated by delicate minerals. How can they be rock when they are so openly enclosing space and defining volume without really occupying their own emptiness? Sometimes it is worth wondering why we like certain things; knowing why makes the experience deeper and can extend the reach of our fascination to other things. Imagine an antimacassar that depicts a spray of slender crystals. Try finding that in an antique store.

**The Mineral Mite Editor's Note:** Mike Seeds from Lancaster, Pennsylvania will be one of the featured speakers at our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 4, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Virginia. He is the current editor of The Conglomerate, the newsletter of the Baltimore Mineral Society.



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

**okhotskite** (o-khots'-kite) An orange monoclinic mineral of the *pumpellyite* group:  
 $Ca_2(Mn^{2+},Mg)(Mn^{3+},Al,Fe^{3+})_2Si_3O_{10}(OH)_4$ .

All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#). GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by: EnviroTech! [envirotechonline.com](http://envirotechonline.com)

The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of about 50 geoscientific and professional organizations that represents geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. The organization was founded in 1948. Headquarters is located on Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia.

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**Scrambles:** Unscramble the following.

Citric Nil \_\_\_\_\_

Eroticism \_\_\_\_\_

Angel hoax \_\_\_\_\_

Galena trot \_\_\_\_\_

Moon clinic \_\_\_\_\_

Hot birch room \_\_\_\_\_

Finally, what do all these have in common?

Answers on page 10

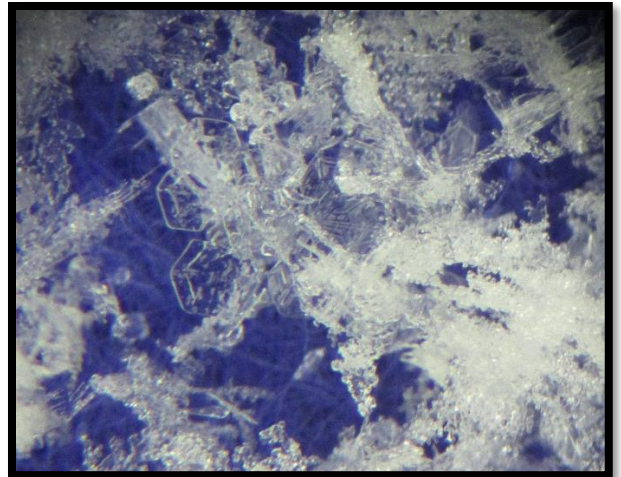
Reprinted from The Conglomerate newsletter of the Baltimore Mineral Society Vol 15, #1 2020

## Snow Crystal Photomicrography

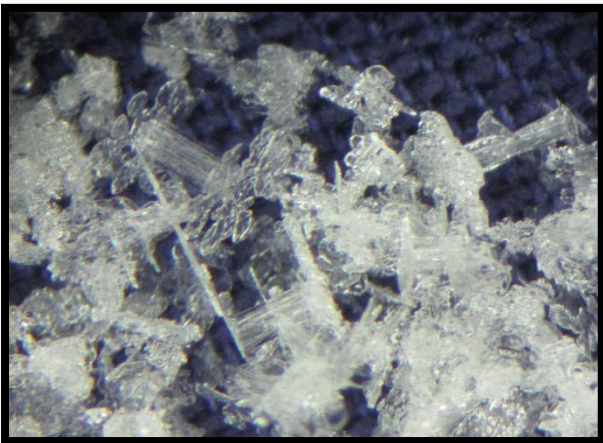
By Kathy Hrechka, Editor

Growing up in Wisconsin, I remember how much fun winters were, when we had blizzards creating huge snowbanks. We did not get days off from school, due to inclement weather, so walking to school was an adventure. Today I find myself embracing snowfalls in Virginia by documenting their signature snow crystals through the lens of my microscope.

My latest study began on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6am. Mother Nature dictates the schedule. I used my Samsung cell phone and my Cannon PowerShot to capture snow crystals through the lens of my Olympic microscope. The temperature was 26F. This was the first time I experienced below freezing temperatures for my photomicrography of snow crystals. I was very surprised at the crystal formations I encountered. Most of the crystals were hollowed columns with hexagonal crystals attached at each end.



Hexagonal, hollowed capped columns FOV 25X  
Snow crystal photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka



\*\*\*\*\*

Dendritic ice crystals on windshield 28F Atlanta



I was visiting our son, Michael in Atlanta on January 22, and discovered amazing ice crystal growth on his back windshield in the morning.

**New Website Designed for the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies - EFMLS**

<https://efmls.org>

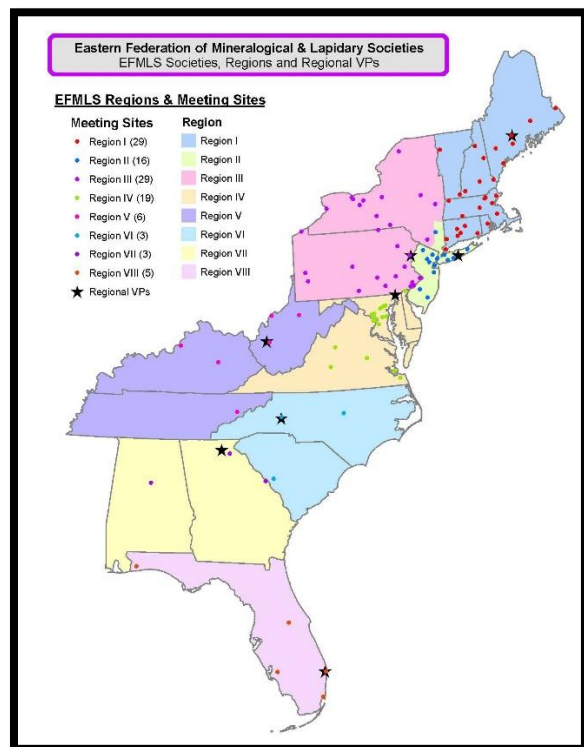
submitted by Kathy Hrechka, Editor MNCA



Check out links: HOME \* ABOUT US \* NEWS AND FEEDS \* OFFICERS \* SOCIETIES ( AL-MA ) \*SOCIETIES (NH - WV) \* EFTA - FIELD TRIP SHARING \* ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

**EFMLS Affiliate Societies**

The Mission and Commitment of the EFMLS is to assist Affiliated Member Societies and Mineralogical Related Organizations (MRO's) to ensure their success in their communities.



**Webmaster contact:**  
**EFMLSWEBMASTER at gmail.com**

**The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society**  
proudly presents the

2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®

*“World Class Minerals”*

**FEBRUARY 13–16, 2020**



**“The finest ammonite specimen known!”**

Neal Larson with Kathy Hrechka at Tucson 2018  
Neal co-starred in Dinosaur 13, the documentary which featured discovering, excavating, and federal government seizing the Field Museum’s T rex, Sue.

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**Scrambles Page 8: Answers**

Citric Nil - Triclinic

Eroticism - Isometric

Angel hoax - Hexagonal

Galena trot - Tetragonal

Moon clinic - Monoclinic

Hot birch room - Orthorhombic

Finally, what do all these have in common?  
They are all crystal classes.

# VIRGINIA MINERAL PROJECT

## -January Report-

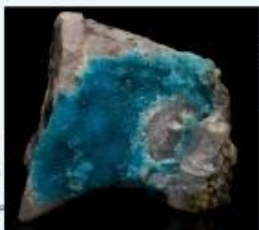
### *State of the Project*

January saw the official launch of the VMP for Virginia. Over the course of the month, the VMP organized over 20+ meetings with collectors, museums, universities and clubs. The goal for January was to let the community know that this project was happening and that the recent \$15,000 donation had kickstarted the funding to see this project through. Community response has been incredible and the VMP continues to find and facilitate new relationships with academic and museum officials. Social media posting of "daily-articles" help promote transparency and keep the public engaged along the journey. I decided to use the social media to highlight collectors, museums, and shops as I travel to their locations.

Donation links and partnership information is now up on the Science Museum of Western Virginia's website. A special shout out to the museum and their staff for making this year possible! Check out the link at: <http://smwv.org/virginia-mineral-project/>

### *VMP State Directory COMING SOON!*

Want to learn more about clubs, rock shops, and museums in Virginia? Need information on some of the best sites to learn about minerals in the state?! Look no further! The VMP is developing a state directory, to be added upon and updated every year with information about all these organizations. Even better, there will be a map showing all these across the state! Releasing February 2020.



### *Monthly Takeaways*

- Presented to D.C Mineral Club, Lynchburg Club, and Tidewater Club.
- VMP will now be attending Montgomery Co. Show on March 21-22.
- Future talks planned with Virginia Peninsula Club, Virginia Master Naturalists, Montgomery Club, and Southern Maryland Club.
- Meetings with Excalibur Minerals, VA Rock Shop, The Valley Rock Shop, and Packards Rocks.
- Over 100 mineral specimens photographed and new collections to review.

## Virginia Mineral Project

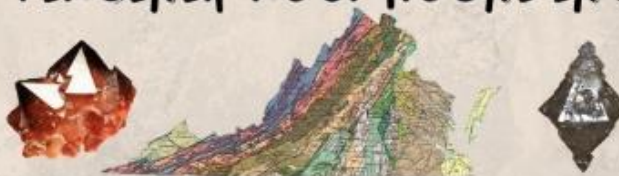
*"Preserving history, one mineral at a time."*

Follow us at: <https://virginiamineralproject.org>

### *Looking to February...*

The VMP will start off February with an incredible trip to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in Arizona! I will be meeting with possible sponsors and learning about new possibilities to bridge the gap between the east and west coast. While this is an incredible show, the VMP will be taking this opportunity to network and complete business. I will return February 8th and begin working on secondary meetings with those I spoke with in January. This month will be vital in rallying donations and figuring out supporting mechanisms in the future. My goal will also be to meet with the State Geological Survey and find ways to collaborate on obtaining research documents and photographs of the collections. February will be vital in figuring out the future of the project into 2021-2022.

## VIRGINIA ROCKHOONDING



THE OFFICIAL PAGE FOR VIRGINIA ROCKHOONDS!

**"COLLECT. PRESERVE. EDUCATE."**

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

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

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

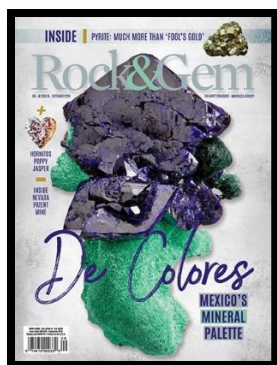
### AFMS Purpose: 2020

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 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.

Content – Letters Editorial Comments – Submissions  
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor  
<editor@amfed.org>



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



Eastern Federation of  
Mineralogical and  
Lapidary Societies

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

**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: February 2020

**5: Mineralogical Society of DC–MSDC meeting**  
Smithsonian NMNH, Constitution Avenue lobby  
7:30 pm to head up to the Cathy Kerby room  
[www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org](http://www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org)

**10: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMS-MC**  
7:30 pm - Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD  
[www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)

**21: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington, DC - GLMS-DC meeting**  
7:00-10pm – Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Chevy Chase, MD  
[www.glmsdc.org](http://www.glmsdc.org)

**24: Northern VA Mineral Club – NVMC meeting**  
7:30-10pm - Long Branch Nature Center  
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA  
[www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

**26: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. - MNCA meeting**  
7:30–10pm - Long Branch Nature Center  
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA  
[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

**March 13-14: Leidy Microscopical Society  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Micromount Symposium**  
45 Worthington Mill Road Richboro, Pennsylvania  
Information: <donmcalarnen@outlook.com>

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference  
April 3-5, 2020 - Holiday Inn, Alexandria, VA  
Tour Victor Yount's mineral collection Sun 5**

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Atlantic Micromounters' Conference April 3-5, 2020

Holiday Inn, 6055 Richmond Hwy Alexandria, VA  
Tour Victor Yount's mineral collection Sunday 5

**Fri Apr 3** - 7pm Michael Pabst "Exotic Lands, Exotic Foods, Exotic Minerals"

**Sat Apr 4** - 10am Scott Duresky "Conclusions from the Research of the Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2, Amelia Courthouse, Virginia"

**Sat Apr 4** - 4pm Steve Stuart "Findings from the Winston Collection"

**Sat Apr 4** - 7pm Michael Seeds "Collecting Radioactive Minerals."

**Sun Apr 5** - Time TBD Victor Yount has invited our group to view his mineral collection on Sunday in Marshall, VA which is 50 miles west of Holiday Inn.

#### Brief speaker biographies:

**Michael Pabst, Penn Laird, VA** Michael Pabst is a retired professor of biochemistry who has collected minerals all his life. He and his wife, Karen, like to travel and check out mineral museums in distant lands.

**Scott Duresky, Charlottesville, VA** Scott is a self-taught mineralogist who first started collecting on the dumps of the Rutherford Mine pegmatite in the late 1960's. Early on, he received extensive lessons in the field from the late Frank Crayton, a research chemist with Philip Morris in Richmond.

**Steve Stuart Bethlehem, PA** His childhood interest in chemistry, nature and minerals was rekindled in 1995 when he started to collect fluorescent mineral. In the late 1990s, he bought a stereo microscope, which opened a whole new world for him. Steve posted his first photo to Mindat in 2004, and now has over 2,500 images on Mindat.

**Mike Seeds, Lancaster, PA** He was a Physics major at the University of Illinois and MS and PhD in Astronomy from Indiana University (1970). Mike has published eight different books for teachers using different approaches to introductory astronomy.

**Victor Yount's mineral collection tour on Sunday**

**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  
Phone (703) 228-6535

**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 for 2020  
\$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 1st of each month.**

*The Mineral Mite* will be emailed on 5th.

No newsletter July/August

**EFMLS Editor's Award**  
**First Place 2016 - Small Bulletins**  
**Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame - 2018**  
**AFMS Trophy 2019**



#### Member inputs:

- \* Dave MacLean
- \* Bob Cooke
- \* Michael Pabst
- \* Kathy Hrechka
- \* David Fryauff
- \* Mike Seeds
- \* Thomas Hale

