



MNCA Website www.dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite



Vol. 56 – No. 6 Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists June 2023

June 28 3-5:30pm Kings Park Library of Burke, VA

Program: AMC Recap & BR Micros

by Jeff Guerber, Vice President

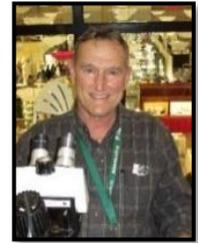
MNCA's June meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 3:00-5:30 pm in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room. We'll recap the Atlantic Micromount Conference, and resume distribution of Barry Remer's collection. In May, since only 4 people were at the meeting, we decided distributing Barry's specimens wouldn't be fair to those who couldn't come. But we also decided that for June we need to continue, no matter how many people come. So, you've been warned! If you want more of Barry's minerals, come to the meeting! Or give someone a list of the ones you're interested in. Continued p 2



President's Message:

by David Fryauff

Thanks to Michael Pabst and Kathy Hrechka of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA), to Dr. Liz Johnson of the James Madison Department of Geology & Environmental Science, and to all those who attended our joint Micromineral Symposium and workshop on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023. I was unable to attend but heard from several people that this event turned out far better than expected and drew a good number of enthusiastic and inquisitive people to the JMU campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



Mystery Micro Mineral of the Month



by Aloha Pete Chin, Honolulu, Hawaii

Clue: Antafagasta Province, Chile. FOV = 5 mm.

I was very excited about attending and had every intention of doing so, until our happy household came down with the viral enteric disease known as hand, foot, and mouth disease. I think I did the right thing, but I am sorry to have missed out on a really nice and interesting gathering. Thanks to all who did attend and who brought mineral specimens to share and trade and discuss. I was all set to bring lots of new mineral specimens for giveaway and trade that I recently found in the Haines-Kibblehouse Penn-MD serpentine quarry in Peachbottom, Fulton Township, Lancaster County, PA.....but these will keep until our June meeting. I hope we can make this a yearly event and rebuild the great relationship between the JMU geology department and local mineral clubs of the DMV. Continued next page.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Hexagonal pyroaurite crystals on antigorite var. picrolite. FOV 5.0 mm Haines-Kibblehouse Penn-MD serpentine quarry, Lancaster Co., PA



Suspected desautelsite FOV 2.0 mm. H-K Penn-MD serpentine quarry, Lancaster Co., PA



Manganese oxide on magnesite FOV 3.0 mm. H-K Penn-MD serpentine quarry, Lancaster Co., PA

June 28 program continued

Kathy won't be producing Mineral Mite over the summer, but we'll keep meeting as usual. Our July meeting will be on MONDAY, JULY 31, 3:00-5:30pm in the Kings Park Library CONFERENCE ROOM. That's the small meeting room, the large was booked already. Watch your email for program and any schedule updates. Happy collecting!

Mystery Micro Mineral of the Month

by Aloha Pete Chin, Honolulu, Hawaii

Answer: Christelite crystals. San Francisco Mine, Caracoles, Sierra Gorda District, Antafagasta Province, Chile. FOV = 5 mm.

Previous Meeting Minutes 4.31.2023

by Bob Cooke, secretary

The May 2023 meeting of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA) was called to order at 4 PM on May 31 by Vice President Jeff Guerber. Other members present were Bob Cooke, Dave Hennessey, and Kathy Hrechka. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the Mineral Mite.



The 2023 Atlantic Micromounters' Conference will be held on Saturday June 3rd at James Madison University. The Mineral Museum is on the bottom floor. Set up scopes, and everyone brings a few pretty micros to show off, if you have some. Dr. Liz Johnson will speak to us about the micromount collections at James Madison University.

Because of the low attendance at today's meeting, Jeff deferred any further distribution of Barry Remer minerals until the June meeting. Members confirmed their desire to continue MNCA meetings during the summer. The June meeting will be on Wednesday June 28th 3 PM at Kings Park Library, Burke, Virginia. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Prior Program Reviewed 4.31.2023

by Bob Cooke

We continued to study microminerals.

The Mineral Mite June 2023

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

49th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference Success - Saturday, June 3

by Kathy Hrechka, editor

Our 49th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference was held at James Madison University on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Michael Pabst coordinated the event with Dr. Liz Johnson who is the JMU Collections Curator.

Dr. Johnson earned a Ph.D. in Geochemistry from Caltech, with George Rossman as her advisor in 2003. She was a Postdoctoral fellow at the NMNH Smithsonian Institution before joining JMU in 2006. At JMU she taught Petrology, Lab techniques, and general education, and is a member of the Mineralogical Society of America.

The event opened with Michael welcoming attendees. There were thirty registered attendees, and nine students. Dr. Johnson welcomed us with a presentation of the history and statistics of the JMU Mineral Museum. We were all curious about the micromount collections and new museum, so the full day provided plenty of activity and fellowship.

JMU Mineral Museum History

*1976 Started a collection through donations from private collectors.

*1989-1992 Mitchell Mineral Endowment for Virginia Minerals created and augmented

*2007 Original Museum opens in Memorial Hall

*2018 Department moves across campus

*2018 \$16.8m Peter L. Via collection donated to the museum

*2018 Dr. Lance Kearns retires

*2020 Museum opens in Festival

*2020-2021 COVID

*Late October Dr. Liz Johnson and Dr. Eric Pyle offered and accept curator positions

*Summer 2022 Dr. Cindy Kearns retires

*Summer 2022 Meeting with Kearnses, moving samples and inventory, displays in EnGeo

*Museum curation certificate curriculum

*Earth Materials and work with graduate communications class

*Audit and safety

*Academic leave fall 2023

JMU Museum Statistics:

*1850 catalogues specimens

*519 (28%) on display in museum or in EnGeo hallway

*1331 samples in museum storage, 251 do not have a number attached

*About 200-300 unlabeled samples in EnGeo storage
Micromounts: 6,000+?

Micromount collections:

Keidel 850 micros donated in 2004 in large cabinet, some larger crystals, curated so not many duplicates of same mineral from one location, summer 2022 numbered specimens and checked/edited spreadsheet.

Ferraiolo 1067 micros donated in 2014 to JMU by wife Judy, 6,500 specimens, 1/3 of which were appraise as rare or good quality, plus books, many duplicates, rare but not pretty, summer 2022 organized numbered and input label info into spreadsheet.

Phillip Cosminsky 4,700 micros donated in 2007, Merchant marine, cabinet maker, Baltimore Micromounters Hall of Famer, aesthetically pleasing samples mounted at the same level for microscope viewing, 2023 JMU start organizing and making spreadsheet.

Ulinski? Diamonds? The information was noted from presentation slides by Dr. Liz Johnson.

Thanks to Dr. Johnson we were able to study a sampling of Phil Cosminsky's micromineral collection, interact with students, and talk rocks with attendees. University microscopes were set up, while some attendees brought their own. John Ferrante gave students a lesson on micromounting, using his pre-packaged kits. Kathy Hrechka set up her "Microminerals A - Z" wheel under her scope for students to experience our avocation. The entire afternoon was filled with trading micros and supplying students with new minerals. Our conference was a success thanks to Dr. Liz Johnson for allowing us to have access to the university and its new mineral collection. Student docent, Dani greeted us in the new museum, and answered any questions. Continue to the next two pages for photos provided by Dr. Liz Johnson, Steve Stuart, Jeff Guerber, and Kathy Hrechka. Visit our website for more conference and museum photos. www.dcmicrominerals.org

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Michael Pabst welcomes & introduces Dr. Johnson



John Ferrante teaching Micromounting 101



Dr. Liz Johnson with JMU student, Cosminsky micros



Collection of give-away microminerals



John Ferrante instructing JMU students

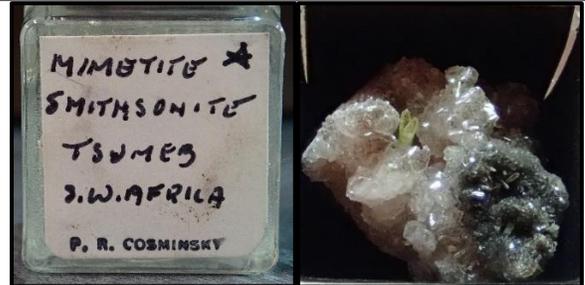


Give-away microminerals



Dr. Liz Johnson is delighted to meet micromineral collectors who desire to mentor her students.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Historic P.R. Cosminsky micro

Iron Arsenates with Lead: Carminite, Ludlockite, Nealite

by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

Carminite, Ludlockite, and Nealite are iron arsenates that also contain lead (Pb) in their structures, which distinguishes them from the simple iron arsenates like Scorodite $\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{AsO}_4) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, that we examined in my last article. The lead content enhances the color and luster of the crystals like lead in leaded glass crystal. There are at least eight more lead iron arsenates, including Arsenbrackebuschite, Beudantite, Gartrellite, and Segnitite, for which I lack good specimens or reliable identifications. In this article, I do mention Mawbyite which is a dimorph of Carminite.



Carminite. Carminite is $\text{PbFe}^{3+}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2$. Carminite is orthorhombic *mmm* – dipyrnidal. Hardness $3\frac{1}{2}$. Carminite was named for the dye carmine, a vivid crimson pigment extracted from the cochineal insect which forms a scale on nopal cactus plants like the prickly pear. Tip: if you are vegan or squeamish about bugs, you might wish to avoid red velvet cake mixes!

Let's start with a photo of Carminite from Utah. If you have a big screen, I recommend zooming to 200%:



Carminite. Gold Hill Mine, Tooele County, Utah. FOV 2 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 22 images. (#181)

Here are two of my specimens of Carminite from the Ojuela Mine in Mexico:



Carminite. Mina Ojuela, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 15 images. (#640)



Carminite. Mina Ojuela, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 20 images. (#639)

Continued next page.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

The Clara Mine in Germany provides magnificent Carminite crystals, as shown by this beautiful Mindat photo taken by Elmar Lackner:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-1107014.html>.

Note the green crystals of Segnitite.

Mawbyite is a monoclinic $2/m$ – prismatic dimorph of Carminite ($\beta = 114.857^\circ$). I don't have a specimen, but here is a nice photo by Michael Förch on Mindat:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-795154.html>.

Ludlockite is $\text{PbFe}^{3+}_4\text{As}^{3+}_{10}\text{O}_{22}$. Hardness $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2. Triclinic $\bar{1}$ - pinacoidal. My specimen is a little tuft of fibrous crystals from Tsumeb, Namibia, the type locality.



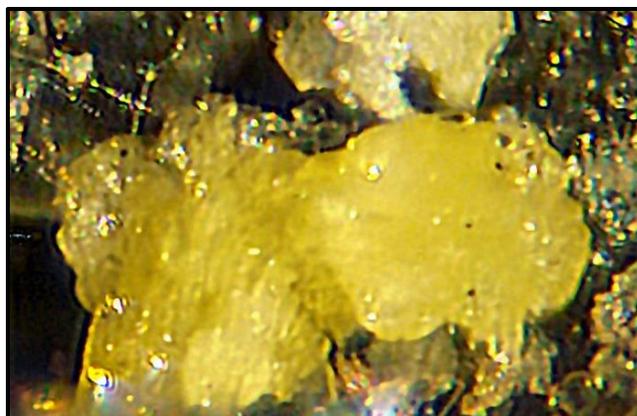
Ludlockite. Tsumeb, Namibia. FOV 3 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 26 images. (#1397)

Here is a specimen of red Ludlockite from Tsumeb, taken by Paul De Bondt:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-169546.html>. Bigger specimens show a darker red, as in this photo by Rock Currier: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-302556.html>.

Nealite. Nealite is $\text{Pb}_4\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{As}^{3+}\text{O}_3)_2\text{Cl}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Found in slag at Lavrium, Greece, with chloride supplied by seawater. Nealite was named after Neal Yedlin, the famous micromounter. (Yedlinite was also named for Neal. Yedlinite $\text{Pb}_6\text{Cr}^{3+}\text{Cl}_6(\text{O},\text{OH},\text{H}_2\text{O})_8$ is a mineral I will probably never possess because it is beautiful purple and extremely rare, virtually unobtainable. Here is a photo by Vincent Bourgoïn:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-328532.html>)



Nealite. Lavrium slag localities, Lavreotiki, East Attica, Greece. FOV 0.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 6 images.

The next photo of Nealite is from a specimen that I recently bought on the e-Rocks website, with a photo by the well-known dealer Joy Desor:



Nealite. Lavrium slag localities, Lavreotiki, East Attica, Greece. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Joy Desor.

This specimen was also photographed by Elmar Lackner in 2009:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-254684.html>.

I also tried to photograph this specimen. I like my color better, but Joy Desor has better resolution. (Probably due to ~\$500 scope versus ~\$20,000 scope.)

Continued next page.



Nealite. Lavrium slag localities, Lavreotiki, East Attica, Greece. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 13 images.

I also like this photo of Nealite by Vincent Bourgoïn: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-358214.html>.

After this review of iron arsenates in the last two articles, the next article will focus on iron phosphates, like Vivianite and Ludlamite.

Rockd App: Recommended by MSDC attendee at Zoom meeting 6.7.2023

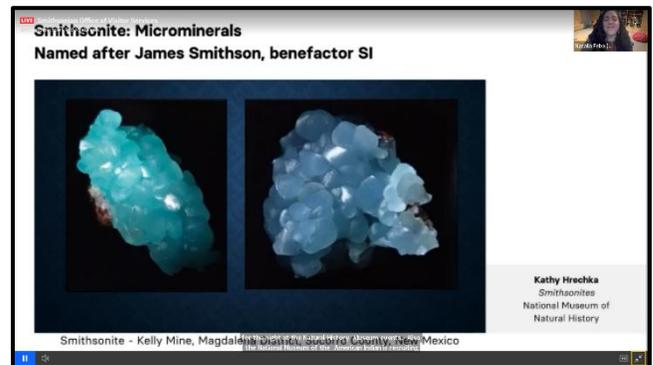


Note from Kathy: I installed the app and noticed that it offers many options of local geology, including elements. I'll be sure to test it out while traveling.

Smithsonian Volunteer Art Showcase:
by Kathy Hrechka, editor MNCA

The Smithsonian Institution recently hosted their annual volunteer appreciation event online. They requested volunteers to capture the spirit of the Smithsonian's resilience with their own works of art, so I decided to share something of value to me. Since I collect smithsonites, I decided to submit some of my micromineral smithsonites named for James Smithson, the benefactor of the Smithsonian Institution.

I was honored to see my submissions during the event. More importantly, I have enjoyed volunteering at the Natural History Museum in the Geology, Gems, and Mineral gallery since 2012. Imagine having access to one of the world's best mineral collections, along with the geologists in the Mineral Sciences department who appreciate us volunteers.



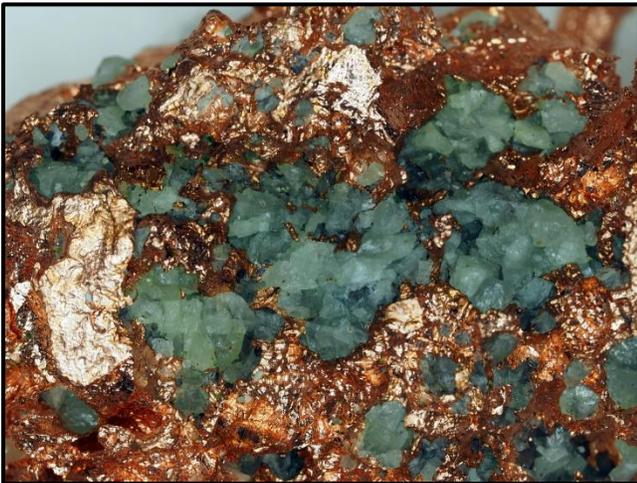
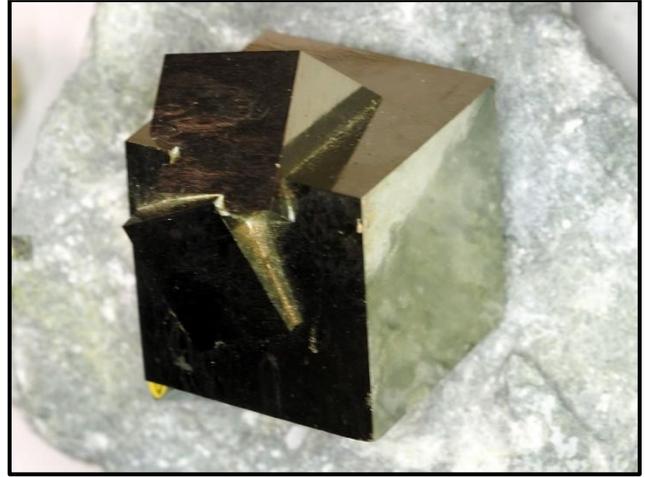
Screen shots by Kathy Hrechka

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Geology Through the Camera Lens

by Hillar Ilves, regular MNCA-AMC attendee

The following photos are ones that I took at a Minerals, Gems, and Fossils show. I used an Olympus with a 60 mm macro lens and an LED ring light. Enjoy photos!



Ice Age Columbian Mammoths Walked on Wiltshire Blvd., LA: La Brea Tar Pits

by Kathy Hrechka, editor

One of my bucket list destinations was recently checked off, having an adventure with my husband Ken to the famous La Brea Tar Pits in California. On our twelve-mile drive from LAX to the La Brea area on Wiltshire Boulevard, we passed more than twenty working oil pumps amongst neighborhoods. That was my indicator we were close to our destination. We toured the George C. Page Museum, witnessing larger than life, reconstructed Ice Age fossil mammoths, mastodons, camels, sloths, dire wolves, saber toothed cats, and a fossil lab. Most featured bone structures were more than 80% original.

We also studied the famous tar pits outdoors, noting methane gas percolating and creating circular rings and oozing bubbles escaping from the tar pits. It was fun for us to predict future locations of gas bubbles, belching gas. Outdoors, fossil excavations continue at locations referred to as Pits 91 and 23. We were unable to observe researchers and volunteers actively working at Pit 91, as the gates were closed to visitors. Pit 23 contained 23 crates available for current and future study.

Our trip to this Ice Age locality in the middle of Los Angeles was amazing, to witness such a cool natural phenomenon. Here are some photos from the museum with captions. I hope we inspire you to visit this site.



George C. Page Museum and La Brea Tar Pits: 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

We learned that the La Brea Tar Pits is an active paleontological research site in urban Los Angeles, California. The pits contain fossilized remains of millions of plants and animals dating between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago. A unique combination of complex geologic events is responsible for the rich accumulations of fossils found at La Brea. Oil formed, tectonic actions forced it to the surface, and sediments were deposited. Originally the pools were composed of crude oil that originated below Earth's surface. The oil is a mixture of heteroatom compounds, hydrocarbons, metals, and inorganic compounds.

From oil wells to fossil fields, one million Ice age fossils were dug up there from 1913 to 1915. Around the time that dozens of wells pumped oil out of this ground, workers dug 96 pits looking for fossils. This work continues and the La Brea Tar Pits Museum now houses nearly five million fossils. For over a century, researchers at La Brea Tar Pits and Museum have unearthed the world's most complete record of what life was like at the end of the Ice Age. So, how did different types of fossils end up in the tar pits together? For thousands of years, crude oil has been naturally rising up to the surface forming shallow puddles of sticky goo called asphalt seeps. Tar pits are created by excavating ancient asphalt seeps.



When excavators unearthed giant leg bones in Pit 9 from 1914 to 1915, they made a major find. Most of La Brea's Columbian mammoth and American mastodon fossils came from this pit. Museum exhibit

Continued next page

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Block of bones from Pit 81: This block of asphalt containing fossil bones was removed from one of the smallest pits in 1914 and transported seven miles to the Museum of History in Exposition Park. It shows the amazing density of specimens found in the excavations. Sponsored by: Fluor Corporation. Museum exhibit



The Columbian mammoths were the most common mammoth species in North America, standing twelve feet tall, weighing 17,000 pounds. Museum exhibit



American mastodon (Mammot americanum): 2 million to 10,000 years ago: Shorter and stockier than their mammoth cousins, mastodons separated from the rest of the proboscidean family tree millions of years ago. Though similar to mammoths, mastodons evolved differently shaped skulls, tusks, and teeth. Museum exhibit

Continued next page

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



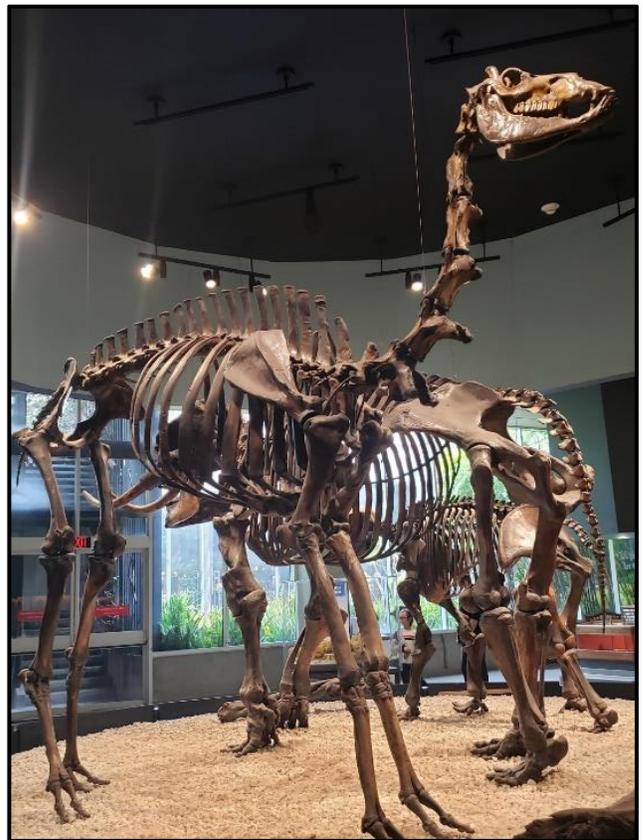
California Saber-Toothed Cats were as large as African lions but were more heavily built, with 4-inch fangs. More than 2,000 have been found in the pits. Museum exhibit



Antique bison: suggested to migrate to La Brea annually when grass was plentiful. Museum exhibit.



Harlan's ground sloth: around 1,500 pounds and over nine feet in length. The living relatives of these ancient giants include armadillos and small tree sloths. Museum exhibit.



Extinct camel: the vertebrae suggest that these camels only had one hump. The remains of only 36 camels were discovered at La Brea. Museum exhibit.

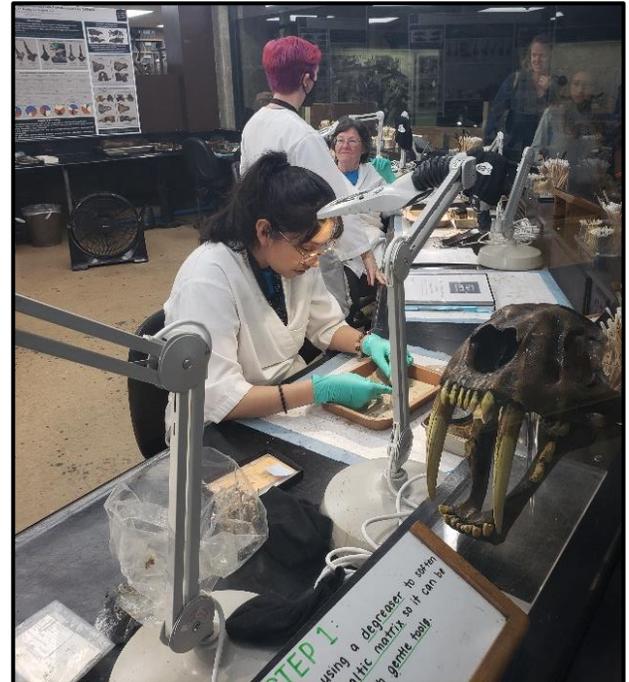
Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Every fossil in this lab was excavated right outside at Project 23, (23 crates of fossils to clean and archive). which came from the excavation site for a new art museum next door to the La Brea Museum.



This fossil on the lab floor (upside down position) is the skull of Zed, the most complete Columbian mammoth ever discovered at La Brea Tar Pits. It was excavated in 2008 as part of Project 23.



Fossil Lab: Researching tiny bones and digested plants for DNA study to understand the habitat during the Ice Age 50,000 to 100,000 years ago.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Millions of new fossils from Project 23 (named for 23 crates) are helping to reconstruct the environment of the Ice Age of Los Angeles. New finds include bones of saber-toothed kittens, an American mastodon baby, and young horses and camels. Digging began in 2008, with one crate per year to be cleaned, identified, and archived. Outdoor exhibit



Recreation of a proboscidean descendant stuck in the currently percolating La Brea Tar pit along Wiltshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. Outdoor exhibit



A newly opened Project 23 crate ready for study. It was excavated from the construction site for a new art museum adjacent to the tar pits. Outdoor exhibit



Fresh tar seeping through the concrete surface in front of the museum. Sites like this are common. Information provided in this article is reproduced from the museum exhibits. Photos by Kathy Hrechka

Desautels Micromount Symposium 2023 October 6-8, 2023, Baltimore, MD

by Mike Seeds, PhD, conference chair & editor BMS

Hi everyone, You and I belong to a special mineral club. 66 years ago, the Baltimore Mineral Society held the first micromount mineral symposium in the world. For the first time on planet Earth, people gathered to talk about minerals and swap little specimens. Since then, lots of clubs around the world have held their own conferences, but it started with your club. This year our 67th Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium will take place on October 6-8 at the Natural History Society of Maryland on Belair Road.

Don't stop reading. You may not be a micromounter but remember that micromounters are mineral collectors. There will be giveaway tables full of rock from well-known quarries and mines plus some locations you have never heard of. There will be three talks on minerals and collecting independent of the size of the rock. There will be dealers selling specimens of common minerals and rare minerals. Most of all there will be people who love mineral collecting anxious to exchange notes and ideas. Anyone who loves minerals would find a micromount symposium lots of fun. And you don't need a microscope; a 10X loupe will serve you well.

We are still planning the program, but we want to alert you to the dates and the new location. Please mark your calendar, spread the word, and plan to come share the fun. We will have Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction, mineral talks, silent, and voice auctions, sales, giveaway tables, and trading.

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

Note by Kathy Hrechka:

Gratitude to our dear friend, Dr. Mike Seeds emeritus professor of physics and astronomy at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. He is the author of over fifty textbooks, now available for sale on the internet.



Dr. Mike Seeds "Universal Star Formations"

Dr. Mike Seeds was a featured speaker at the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 10, 2021. He explained how elements in the periodic table originated within star formations of our universe.

Multi-Club Jamboree @ Sterling Hill on June 10, 2023

by Diana Tasco, Hopatcong, New Jersey

We will need RSVP's so that we can prepare.

Please respond to dianatasco@yahoo.com.

10AM-12noon: You can collect on the 2 front Mine Piles (Mine Run Dump and Worldwide Pile), poundage fee will be \$2.00 / lb.

12PM Lunch - \$5.00 per person for hot dog, hamburger, and trimmings (tickets will be provided for 1 hotdog & 1 hamburger). Please bring your favorite potluck dish or dessert to be shared by all and whatever you like to drink.

1PM - Mine Tour for those interested. Tour costs are \$14.00 for adults, \$13.00 for seniors 65+, \$11.00 for children 4-12 years old, free for children under 4 years old.

Doug Francisco (former Sterling Miner) will be doing a high level, mine tour at the Jamboree. See the Sterling Hill Mining Museum website and become a member. sterlinghillminingmuseum.org

You can also bring any specimens from your collections that you would like to swap with other rockhounds.

We are looking forward to spending time with you all and exchanging ideas and stories.

Mineral Talks Live June 7 @ 1pm ET
Speaker: Dr. Gabriela Farfan, Smithsonian

“Dr. Gabriela Farfan is the Coralyn Whitney Curator of Gems and Minerals at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. She began collecting minerals and gems at age six and turned her hobby into a career as a mineralogist, geochemist, and the first woman and Latina to become a Curator-in-Charge of the National Gem & Mineral Collection. She received her bachelor’s degree in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University and her Ph.D. in Geochemistry from the MIT-WHOI Joint Program.

Her research focuses on the crystal structures and chemistry of minerals formed under varying conditions to answer questions in environmental mineralogy, biomineralization, and gem science. She primarily studies how biomineralizing organisms, such as corals and mollusks, make minerals and how these minerals record shifting aquatic environments in their crystallography and chemistry. Dr. Farfan is a proud longtime member of the Mineralogical Society of America, is currently on the board of the Society for Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP), and is looking forward to a long career in mineral and gem curation and mineral research at the Smithsonian.”



Register in advance for this webinar:
<http://go.mineraltalkslive.com/register>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link joining the webinar.



Micro Club Zoom Meeting - Australia
June 21, 2023 @ 6am (4:00 pm ET)
Program: Frank Loman will present on the Minerals of Lovozero.

July 19, 2023 @ 6am (4:00 pm ET)
Program: Interactive session on the commercial side of the hobby: buying, selling, valuing, etc.

Steve Sorrell resides in Melbourne, Australia and hosts various geology persons of interest at his micromount meeting each month on Zoom. You can sign up for Steve’s programs, while enjoying friendly faces within our geology community around the globe.



“The vast majority of presentations, apart from the first few sessions, have been recorded and are available on my YouTube Channel. You can now register for upcoming sessions. Once registered, you will receive an email and the opportunity to save the Zoom session in your (Google, Yahoo, or Outlook) calendar, and this will be in your local time zone.” Steve’s website

Register for this and other future Zoom sessions here:

Micromount Club Zoom Sessions - Crocoite.com

steve@sorrellpublications.com



MNCA Editor’s note: thanks to Steve Sorrell from Melbourne, Australia, we have been connecting with new mineral friends around the world for the past three years. I have learned that he is a master photomicrographer, as well as an author of mineral books and a talented artist.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

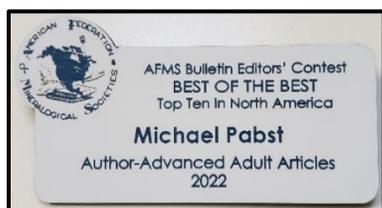
(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

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

2023 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.

Congratulations Michael Pabst!

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Awarded Michael Pabst 9th Place for his article "Cumengeite and Pseudoboleite" which was published in The Mineral Mite 2021. Michael was honored on October 17, 2022, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the location for the AFMS/SCFMS Convention. Michael received a certificate as well as a new name tag.



Celebrating 50 years!
The Rock & Gem magazine is recognized as the
official magazine of the AFMS.
Free archived downloads

[Rock & Gem Magazine Archive : Free
Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet
Archive](#)



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:

June 2023

5: Northern VA Mineral Club NVMC 7:30pm
www.novamineralclub.org

**7: Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia
MSDC 7:30pm Zoom**
www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org

**12: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMSMC**
Meeting 7:30 pm www.glmsmc.com

**16: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Washington, DC - GLMS-DC meeting 7 p.m.**
Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut
Ave; Washington, DC. www.glmsdc.org

21: Baltimore Mineral Society BMS meeting
www.baltimoremineralsociety.org

28: Micromineralogists of the NCA, Inc. MNCA
3-5:30pm Kings Park Library, Burke
www.dcmicrominerals.org

Micromineral Symposia 2023:

**October 6-8, 2023, 67th Annual Paul Desautels
Memorial Micromount Symposium Baltimore,
Maryland at the Natural History Society of Maryland
on Belair Road. (New location)**

The Mineral Mite June 2023

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition

georgeericksenite A vitreous yellow monoclinic mineral: $\text{CaMgNa}_6(\text{IO}_3)_6(\text{CrO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

polymorphism [cryst] (pol-y-mor'-phism) The characteristic of a chemical substance to crystallize in more than one form, e.g. rhombic and monoclinic sulfur. Such forms are called polymorphs. Adj: *polymorphic*. See also: *dimorphism* [cryst]; *trimorphism*; *tetramorphism*; *polytypism*; *allotropy*.

rivadavite (ri'-va-dav"-ite) A colorless monoclinic mineral: $\text{Na}_6\text{Mg}[\text{B}_6\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_6]_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$

tatyanaitite A metallic orthorhombic mineral: $(\text{Pt}, \text{Pd}, \text{Cu})_9\text{Cu}_3\text{Sn}_4$. It is the Pt-dominant analogue of taimyrite.

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.

Barry Remer update. Please visit him.

by Kathy Hrechka

We learned that Barry is now bedridden, and happy to converse with us. We so love Barry and remain his family within our geology community. Please visit him or send a card to brighten his day. Sincerely, Kathy

Barry Remer
Potomac Place
3236 Locker Street
Falls Church, VA 22042
Potomac Place phone
571-378-0295



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area
www.dcmicrominerals.org

We are temporarily meeting at Kings Park Library in Burke, 3-5:30pm (forth Monday) until we locate a permanent meeting place.

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

President: David Fryauff
Vice President: Jeff Guerber
Secretary: Bob Cooke
Treasurer: Michael Pabst
Editor/Historian: Kathy Hrechka
Website: Kathy Hrechka
AMC Conference: open

The society is a member of:

* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) www.efmls.org
* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership **Dues 2023**
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family) donations
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 by 5th.
No newsletter July/August

Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame – 2018 EFMLS Trophy 2021 Small bulletins

Newsletter inputs:

* David Fryauff
* Jeff Guerber
* Michael Pabst
* Bob Cooke
* Kathy Hrechka
* Pete Chin
* Steve Stuart
* Mike Seeds
* Dr. Liz Johnson JMU
* Hillar Ilves



The Mineral Mite June 2023