

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org
The Mineral Mite



Vol. 47 – No. 3

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists March 2014

Meeting: March 26 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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

Program: DVD - Mindat.org founder Jolyon Ralph demonstrates his new features on Mindat including the first public preview of their new Gallery system.

By: Dave Fryauff, V.- president

Mindat.org is a resource for all mineral collectors. Built by a large community of volunteers over thirteen years, it has become an indispensable reference for the industry. Jolyon Ralph was an a presenter at the Dallas MineralCollecting Symposium in 2013.



2014 Dallas Symposium is August 22-23, 2014

Photo of the Month



**Conicalcrite on olivenite with lavendulan,
San Rafael mine, Nevada. Joe Marty**

President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean



It's the "little things" which count. I have been looking at minerals with a microscope and ten power loupe since 1966. I was impressed at the wonders I saw then and see now. I sit at my desk and often look at minerals with a ten power loupe. However, during our recent visit to JMU I looked at some small crystalline stilbite from the Manassas quarry. At low 10-20 magnification I saw some green spots among the stilbite crystals. At 30 power small green crystals appeared. The consensus ID was that they are epidote. I am anxious to look at them with higher magnification.

When we demo micromineralogy at shows, more kids than adults come to look. Most persons come look and then go away. How do we create sustained interest in the wonders of the world of "little things" among adults and children? I will share other "little things" stories in the future.

Some club news: We are invited to go to Manassas Quarry, arrive by 7AM Saturday 22 March. Our conference is at the Springhill Suites Marriott, Alexandria Friday evening 4 April and all day Saturday 5 April. Kathy Hrechka will update us.

**Atlantic Conference update on page 3
New Website - dcmicrominerals.org**

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/26/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

The meeting opened at 8:02 p.m., with vice president David Fryauff presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. We began with the program for the evening, with MNCA member Erich Grundel demonstrating his homemade apparatus, and his techniques for mounting submillimeter size specimens. How many specimen specks can one mount on the head of a pin?

The business part of the meeting began about 9:15 p.m. The minutes for our previous meetings on 11/20/13 and on 12/16/13 were approved, as printed in the Mineral Mite (the meeting scheduled for 1/22/14 was cancelled because of the weather). The Treasurer gave his report. He also gave the proposed club budget for 2014, which was approved by the members.

Old business -- Conference chairperson Kathy Hrechka gave a detailed discussion relating to the 2014 Atlantic Micromounters Conference at the Springhill Suites by Marriot in Alexandria, VA. Note that the conference site has changed from the Congressional School in Falls Church where it was held in 2013.

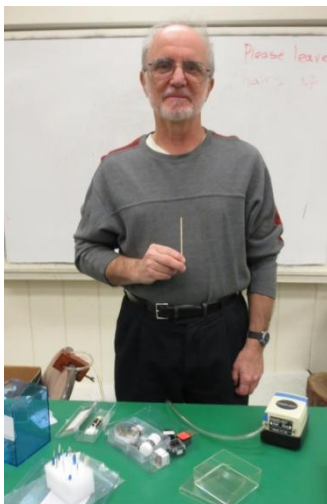
The meeting ended with a brief demonstration of the club's new website, ending about 10 p.m.

Previous Program Reviewed 2/26/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

Erich Grundel demonstrated his homemade apparatus, and his techniques for mounting submillimeter size specimens. How many specimen specks can one mount on the head of a pin?

Photo: Erich Grundel



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.
Long Branch Nature Center, (Except Easter & Dec.)
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
Vice Pres: David Fryauff, fryauffd@yahoo.com
Secretary: George Reimherr, greim@cox.net
Treasurer: Michael Pabst, Michaeljpabst@yahoo.com
Editor: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com
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

2014 Dues are Due

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2014
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)

Payable to MNCA

Michael Pabst

270 Rachel Drive

Penn Laird, VA 22846



Editor's

Notes:

Kathy Hrechka



Send your articles and photos to your editor.
Club Article Deadline is 10th of each month.
The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15th.

AFMS Editors Award
First Place 2011 - Mini Bulletins

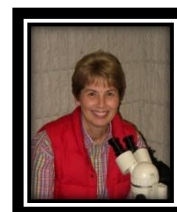


March Articles:

*Michael Pabst

*T&D Carlson

* Tom Tucker



MNCA Atlantic Micromounters Conference News April 4-5, 2014

By Kathy Hrechka, Conference Chair

Our 41th Atlantic Micromounters Conference is scheduled for Friday evening 6-9 pm, and 8:30 am - 9 pm on Saturday at the Spring Hill Suites by Marriott in Alexandria, VA. Our featured speaker is Joe Marty from Salt Lake City, Utah.. We will finalize pending conference details at our next meeting. We still need two volunteers to run the silent and live micromount auctions. Michael Pabst has prepared and completed the auction details, but is unable to attend the conference.

Call for Micromineral Donations

By Michael Pabst

Members of MNCA: Please don't forget to donate some specimens to the silent auction at our upcoming Atlantic Micromount Conference on April 4-5 in Alexandria. Cynthia Payne has donated 20 beautiful specimens, and Michael Pabst has donated 8 specimens.

Please bring your donations to the regular March 26 meeting at Long Branch Nature Center.

Thank you for your support.

Photo: Michael Pabst photographing microminerals through his Panasonic Lumix GF3 camera attached to a two foot long velvet lined, sewer pipe, and bellows with a Luminar 40 mm lens made by Ziess.



Potential Post-Conference Collecting Field Trip April 6 with Tom Tucker

Buck Hill, Augusta County, Virginia and/ or Sugar Grove, Pendleton County, West Virginia, on Sunday, April 6, 2014

Tom's details are listed on page 4.

Conference Speaker: Joe Marty, Utah

Joe Marty is a retired medical technologist who taught hematopathology at the University of Utah. He presently operates a microscope-service business.



Joe is an avid field collector and photographer of micro-minerals. Joe was elected to the BMS Micromounters Hall of Fame in 2005. He has found many new minerals in the Southwest and maintains productive scientific collaborations with (other) mineralogists in the U.S. and abroad. Joe is credited for discovering many new minerals, including "postite", named for Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the National Gem and Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian. Joe and his wife Petrea, spend their summers fishing in Alaska on Prince of Wales Island.

Joe's topics include: Recent Collecting Adventures; Hidden Treasure Mine, Utah – A Mineral Collector's Treasure; New Vanadium Minerals from the Colorado Plateau with an Emphasis on Postite; and My Favorite Microminerals – Self Collected, Trades, and Purchases.

Martyite Photos courtesy Joe Marty



Potential Post-Conference Collecting Field Trip April 6 with Tom Tucker

If anyone else is interested, I'm planning on taking a "field trip" to Buck Hill, Augusta County, Virginia and/ or Sugar Grove, Pendleton County, West Virginia, on Sunday, April 6, 2014, the day following the Conference. We can plan on meeting in the Harrisonburg, Virginia area, about two hours southwest of the DC area, via I-66 and I-81. If we meet around 11:00 AM, we can be at Buck Hill by 11:45, collect for a couple of hours, and then drive another hour to Sugar Grove, where we can collect until about 5:00 PM or so, and then be headed on our way home - wherever that is. Plans for the day can be flexible !



If you are interested in this collecting trip, please let me know you're coming, and we can arrange a meeting place. I can be reached at: 540-280-7427, or email: threedogtom@earthlink.net

References to the two localities may be found in Rocks and Minerals magazine:

Sugar Grove: Kearns, L. (1993): The Minerals of Sugar Grove, West Virginia (Rocks & Minerals 68:158)

Buck Hill: Kearns, L.E., et al.(2009): The Mineralogy of the Buck Hill syenite intrusion, Augusta County, Virginia (Rocks and Minerals 84:352; July-August, 2009)

Looking forward to seeing you, Tom Tucker

April 4th & 5th 2014 Fri. 6-9pm & Sat. 8am-9pm
Spring MicroMount Symposium

Conference Center, Spring Hill Suites by Marriott
6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303
for hotel call (571) 481-4441



We invite you to attend the 41st Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference. Enjoy geology lectures, as well as fellowship with rock collecting hobbyists, mineralogists and micromounters.

This is not your typical mineral show, but more a scientific symposium and lecture series. The event is invitation only, just interested rock collecting hobbyists, mineralogists, academics, geologists and micromounters.

Our featured speaker will be Joe Marty from Salt Lake City, Utah. He has collected & named new minerals, including 'postite', named for Dr. Jeffrey Post, Gem & Mineral Curator at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

\$30.00 It is best to pre-register - as there are a limited number of attendees.

The registration form can found on-line at <http://www.dcmicromineralists.org>
or call Kathy Hrechka at (703) 407-5393

Field Trip: 2/22/14 Success with Dr. Lance Kearns - Mineralogy Laboratories and Museum at James Madison University

By Tom Tucker

I Just want to thank everyone who made it to JMU for our annual visit with Dr. Kearns. There were approximately 40 members present making it one of the largest turnouts ever. I'm sure someone will be writing a "trip report" for each Club. It was good to see everyone there today, especially so many "new" members, and so many youngsters - the future of our pastime. Thanks to all for making our visit a success. Tom



Dr. Lance Kearns sent us a nice Thank You letter for the \$100 donation that MNCA made to the JMU Mineral Museum at our recent field trip to Harrisonburg. Michael Pabst, Treasurer of MNCA Thank you Tom Tucker for arranging this trip.



Feb 26, 2014

MMNCA
270 Rachel Dr.
Penn Laird, VA.
22846-2030

Dear Members of the MMNCA;

I am writing to thank you for the \$100.00 donation that the club made to the James Madison University Mineral Museum. The great turnout that the three NOVA mineral clubs had provided for an exciting Saturday. I always enjoy it.

We appreciate your participation and help very much. Until we do it again next year, Thank You.

Dr. Lance E. Kearns



Professor and Mineralogist
Curator of JMU Mineral Museum

Uranium Selenates

By Michael Pabst



The Musonoi Mine in Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Zaire, is famous for world-class Torbernite and Cuprosklodowskite, and for many secondary uranium microminerals, some of which I mentioned in earlier articles. One of Musonoi's unique features is that it has a variety of uranium selenates, many of which are the best ever found. The selenates are often associated with another beautiful uranium mineral, Vandenbrandeite, a deep green copper uranium hydroxide, $\text{Cu}(\text{UO}_2)(\text{OH})_4$.

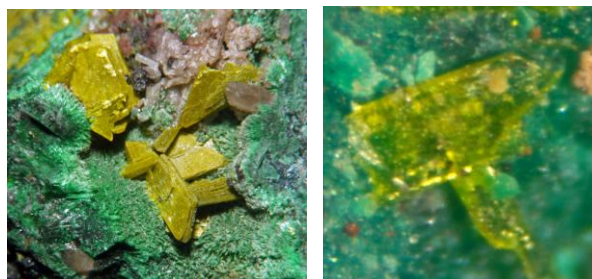
I have pictures of four uranium selenates:

Marthozite $\text{Cu}(\text{UO}_2)_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Guilleminite $\text{Ba}(\text{UO}_2)_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

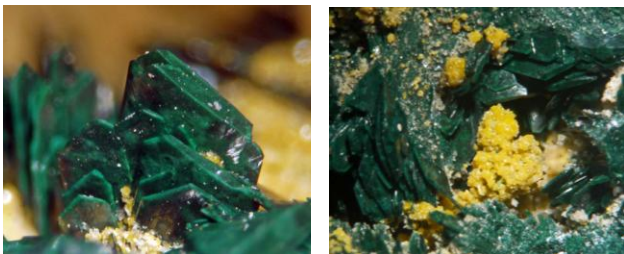
Demessaekerite $\text{Pb}_2\text{Cu}_5(\text{UO}_2)_2(\text{SeO}_3)_6(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Derriksite $\text{Cu}_4(\text{UO}_2)(\text{SeO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$



Left: Marthozite on Malachite, Musonoi, Kolwezi, Katanga, D R Congo. FOV = 9 mm.

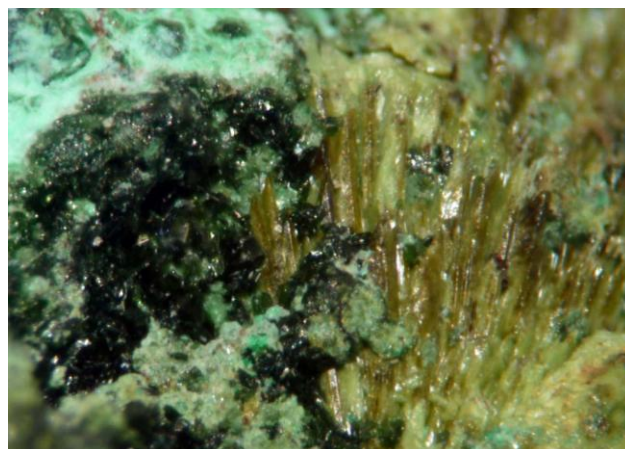
Right: Guilleminite, Musonoi, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 0.5 mm.



Left: Vandenbrandeite, Musonoi, Kolwezi, Katanga, D R Congo. FOV = 3 mm.

Right: Guilleminite surrounded by Vandenbrandeite, Musonoi, Kolwezi, Katanga, D R Congo. FOV = 8 mm.

Some of the uranium selenates, like Demessaekerite and Derriksite, are associated with the beautiful blue copper selenate, Chalcomenite, $\text{Cu}(\text{SeO}_3) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.



Top: Demessaekerite (long olive-green crystals on right) and Derriksite (dark green crystals on left) from Musonoi, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 3 mm.

Bottom: Derriksite (dark green) and Chalcomenite (blue) from Musonoi, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 2 mm.



In an article about uranium selenates, I must not fail to mention Haynesite, $(\text{UO}_2)_3(\text{SeO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which was discovered by, and named after, our famous colleague, Patrick Haynes. Patrick found this mineral in Utah (Repete Mine, Blanding, San Juan County, Utah); it does not occur at Musonoi. Although I searched through Patrick's flats before he left us for New Mexico, I failed to find a photogenic specimen of Haynesite. If anyone has a nice Haynesite that I could photograph, I promise to

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

return it unharmed. Meanwhile, there are nice pictures on Mindat (www.mindat.org). (Click on the photo taken by Stephan Wolfsried.)

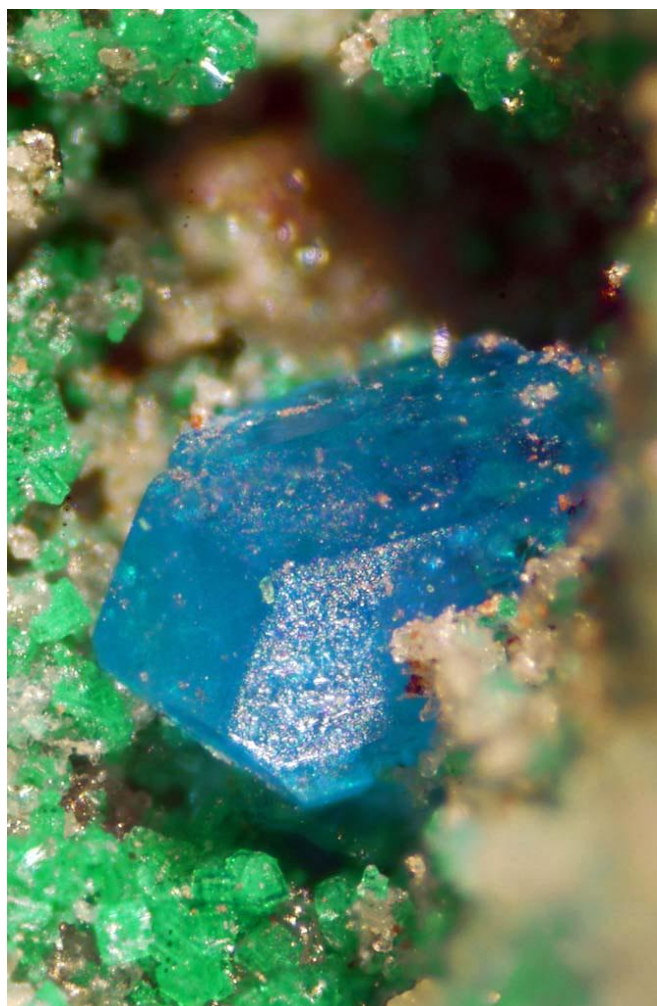


Type Locality of Haynesite
Repete Mine, Blanding, San Juan Co., Utah 1991
patrickhaynes407@yahoo.com

Pat Haynes Micro Minerals Available

I have boxes of rough New Mexico micro material such as aurichalcite, bixbyite, chabazite-Ca, descloizite, hematite, heulandite-Ca, magnesian hornblende, smithsonite, vanadinite, wulfenite, etc. for East Coasters. You would have the fun of trimming/discovery. For instance I just listed 10 species, but going through flats to gather ten different things for one box might be problematic. If there is some interest then I can expand the list of species.

Thanks. Patrick
901 Sean St., Socorro, NM 87801
505-366-3585



Chalcocite (blue) and **Malachite or Derriksite** (?) (green) from Musonoi, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 2 mm. The dark green crystals in the previous photo are definitely Derriksite, but I am unsure of the identity of the lighter green crystals.

Australia and New Zealand Micromineral News

Micromounter's Newsletter from Down Under
Editor Steve Sorrell



[http://www.crocoite.com/wiki/index.php?title=Australia and New Zealand Micromineral News](http://www.crocoite.com/wiki/index.php?title=Australia_and_New_Zealand_Micromineral_News)

Apostle Island Ice Caves: Valentine's Day Sweetheart Hike 2014

By Therese & Dave Carlson, Burnsville, MN
(Therese is Kathy Hrechka's older sister)

Winter in Minnesota has been incredibly long, with bitter, below zero temperatures. On February 14, my husband decided to surprise me with a Valentine's trip to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Northern Wisconsin. We had been hearing news reports of ice formations at the mainland sea caves, so we were intrigued. Since we're avid hikers and love the National Parks, we figured this would be fun. It was a last minute trip since weather was playing such a large role in the integrity of the ice on Lake Superior. So, off we went on our adventure. We left Minneapolis on a Thursday after work, arrived at our hotel in Ashland, Wisconsin in time for an early night. Early the next morning, we drove another twenty miles to Meyers Beach where the hike to the ice caves began.

The weather was cold (zero degrees) and the wind was mild. The hike is along the southern, shoreline cliffs of Lake Superior where there was no protection from the weather. We dressed in layers upon layers. The first few hundred yards of the hike was along Meyers Beach where the lake ice had pushed itself into heaps that looked like snow banks before the lake finally froze over enough to halt the "tide" action. After a mile of hiking on the snow packed Lake Superior, we came to the first caves and ice formations. Water was still trickling from cracks in the cliffs, frozen waterfalls and icicles continued to form, and on a couple of occasions the ice made heaving and cracking noises around us. The lake ice was at least 12 inches thick, which is safe enough to drive on. Since it's a National Park, only hiking, skiing and snowshoeing was allowed. That meant no snowmobiles or bikes.

We hiked the full two miles worth of caves. Frigid temps (anything below 20 degrees) don't normally agree with camera equipment so we took every precaution to keep the camera in its bag unless we were filming. The formations got more spectacular as we went. We kept warm, as long as we kept moving. The hike back to Meyers Beach was a little warmer (3 degrees by the time we got back to our car) and even more exhausting. We didn't realize

how the cold weather would tire us out so much. We found lunch at a local diner and returned to our hotel room for a two hour nap. We had hiked seven miles in total that morning just to capture the ice formations within the caves.



Photo: Dave Carlson standing on Lake Superior
Now we enjoy the memories and hundreds of photos we shot that day. We're looking forward to spring and our next hiking adventure.
Photos courtesy Therese & Dave Carlson



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

American Federation Show 2014
July 9 – 13 Tulsa, Oklahoma

2014 Shows:

Eastern Federation

March 29-30 Plymouth Mtg, PA

Midwest Federation

Oct. 18 - 19 Des Moines, IA

Northwest Federation

August 15-17 Hermiston, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation AFMS

July 9 - 13 Tulsa, OK

South Central Federation

Aug. 9-10 Baton Rouge, LA 2015

2015 Shows:

Eastern Federation

March 28-29 Hickory, NC

Midwest Federation

May 23 – 24 Wheaton, IL

South Central Federation AFMS

October 23-25 Austin, TX 2016

MNCA Weather alert:
SNOW CONTINGENCY

If schools in Arlington County are cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of our scheduled meeting, we will have no meeting.



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

Communication and Involvement
Are the Keys to Our Success!

Eastern Federation Show 2014

March 29 – 30 Plymouth Meeting, PA

The 64th Annual EFMLS Convention & Show hosted by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society & Delaware Valley Paleontological Society: LuLu Temple, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania

Geology Events: By Matt Charsky

March:

15-16: Show - Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery Co., MD Fairgrounds

Sat. 10–6, Sun. 11–5; adult admission: \$6

Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, MD <http://www.glmsmc.com>

Micromounters Corner "Sign up-Volunteer Spot"

<http://vols.pt/fsptvE> Enter email, & sign-up.

29–30: 64th Annual EFMLS Convention and Show, Lulu Temple, Plymouth Meeting, PA

April:

4-5: Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

Spring Hill Suites Alexandria by Marriott Rt. 1

<http://www.dcmicrominerals.org>

26: Sterling Hill Super Dig; Ultraviolet Event;

Ogdensburg, NJ Registration fee: \$21

<http://www.SterlingHillSuperDig.org>

EFMLS WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES

Geology Retreat atop the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. Tuition is \$390.

* Spring classes **April 7 – 13, 2014**

* Fall classes **September 1 – 7, 2014**

EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls>