Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 49 – No. 5 Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists May 2016

May 25 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22206

Program: Wildacres View

By David Fryauff, Vice President

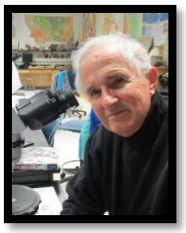
My plan for the May program is to give a report on my 9-10 days in Western NC. I will be at Wildacres from May 9-15 taking the field geology course under USGS geologist Rob Robinson. I will visit the Crabtree Emerald Mine there in Spruce Pine & later the Ray Mica Mines in Burnsville, NC. I will take photos at both of these places & give a report on the collecting. If I find anything worthwhile, I will bring these specimens in to the meeting for viewing/study.

Tom Tucker referred me to an old friend of his, Ed Speers, who lives in Marion, NC, at the bottom of the mountain, down below Little Switzerland. I hope to find Ed at home & available for a visit. He may have some great NC mineral specimens in his personal collection that I will try to photograph.

Photo of the Month

President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean



I offer my personal WELL DONE and Thank You to Kathy Hrechka, Michael and Karen Pabst, Bob Cooke, Dave Hennessey, John Kress, Robert Clemenzi, and Barbara Sky for helping at our Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tony Nikischer our speaker, was great. Dealers Al Pribula, Andy Dietz, Betsy Martin, and Carolyn Weinberger supplied fine micros. Thank you, for all who attended our conference. I personally learned a lot about naming minerals, the Kola Peninsula, Rocks from Space, and Techniques in Micro-photography.

The discussion of activity ideas for the 2017 conference was fruitful and the prospective working with the local vendor of desk top SEM and EDS system.

We look forward to our meetings Wednesdays 25 May and 23 June. Fall brings the opportunity to share our summer finds and show off our expertise at the Sat-Sun 19-20 November NVMC show.

* *

Photo of the Month details:

Eurekadumpite - named for the dumps of the Centennial Eureka Mine, Juab County, Utah

Submitted by Tony Nikischer from his presentation on April 22, at our great 43rd Atlantic Micromounters Conference in Alexandria, VA.

Read Dave MacLean's article on pages 3-4 for details about Tony's presentation on naming minerals.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 4/27/16

Recorded by Bob Cooke for George Reimherr, secretary

President Dave MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. No past Presidents nor guests were present. Treasure Michael Pabst reported $205 in 2016 dues have been collected to date.

Kathy Hrechka reported on last weekend's Atlantic Micromounters Conference (AMC). Club members agreed that having the guest speaker give a presentation geared to MNCA members on Friday evening, then two presentations on Saturday for general conference attendees was appropriate. This year the Silent Auction generated only half the revenue as the Live Auction. Club members agreed for next year to replace the Silent Auction with a "Dutch Auction" on Saturday morning. (The Dutch Auction will start with a relatively high price then constantly lower the price until someone bids. First bid wins.) Special thanks to Ti Meredith who took custody of materials on the give-away table at the end of the Conference.

Bob Cooke will store 2 two flats of micromounts donated by Cynthia Payne. These will be brought to MNCA meetings when requested. Bob will also investigate options for a bulk purchase of loupes that MNCA can sell when it has a demonstration table at mineral shows.
An MNCA field trip to Excalibur Minerals Corp in Charlottesville, VA was discussed. Kathy relayed information from Frank Beall (Butler, PA) about a Meiji trinocular microscope he was selling.

At the previous MNCA meeting club membership nominated and approved George Reimherr for Honorary membership. When notified at his home of the award George was very pleased.
Meeting and program adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Previous Program Reviewed: 4/27/16

By Bob Cooke

Dave Fryauff's program on "Exploring the Mines of Dal'Negorsk, Siberia," although announced in the April Mineral Mite, was not presented. It will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Robert Clemenzi and Kathy Hrechka led a discussion of how MNCA can interact with NanoScience Instruments Inc. to help the company develop mineral-related marketing strategies for the Phenom ProX all-in-one desktop scanning electron microscope (SEM) and X-ray Analysis System, in return for MNCA members getting access to the ProX for analysis of unknown minerals. Club members were asked to bring small (approx. 1/8 to ¼ inch) mineral samples to the May MNCA meeting.

Nanoscience Instruments

By Robert Clemenzi

This year, the fourth USA Science & Engineering Festival was held at the convention center in downtown DC. This excellent event has been held every other year and hopefully will be held into the future. When walking by the University of Florida booth I noticed an SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) image on one of the displays. Being curious I talked with the presenter. The university had planned to bring their new, extremely small, scanning electron microscope to the festival to help advertise their school. However, the vendor (Nanoscience Instruments) representative suggested that they not bother shipping their unit and that, since they have an office in Alexandria, they would supply a unit and demonstrate it.

This unit is cool. Unlike the unit we have used at JMU - a unit that requires its own room and takes a long time to set up - their "personal" SEM is about the size of a computer tower case. There is no need for liquid nitrogen or a large vacuum pump.

Continued on next page

Nanoscience

When changing samples, you just place the sample in the holder, push the holder into the front panel, and take pictures. All in less than 1 minute. Because the internal pressure is much higher than found in larger unit, there is no reason to coat the samples with gold. Instead, the electrostatic charge (which is a problem at high vacuum) is bled off by a constant stream of low pressure air over the sample.

Smaller, cheaper, easier to use. Can be fitted with an EDS detector (for energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy to perform elemental analysis). The only down side is that it won't magnify as much as the expensive units - only about 30,000x for the cheaper units. (Way more than we need to identify minerals.)

Be sure to checkout their gallery - diatoms, pollen, a few minerals, and lots more. http://www.nanoscience.com/products/sem/why-phenom-sem/gallery/

We hope to arrange a field trip soon.

NanoScience Instruments

5845 Richmond Hwy, Suite 125
Alexandria VA

http://www.nanoscience.com/

Scanning Electron Microscopes, Atomic Force Microscopes, Optical profilers, Nanoindenters: We provide high resolution microscopy, metrology and mechanical testing products.

How New Minerals are Discovered and Named

Tony Nikischer, Excalibur Minerals of Charlottesville, VA

Presented at the 43rd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference on April 22, 2016

By Dave MacLean, MNCA President

Nikischerite - named for Tony Nikischer, found at Huanuni Mine, Dalence Province, Bolivia

How often have we wondered how minerals are characterized and named? When I was in Hungary I received a micro mineral of matraite (named after the Matra Mountain in Northern Hungary) from the Department of Mineralogy at the university in Budapest. When I looked for matraite (a form of zinc sulfide) in Fleischer's, I found that the name was discredited and listed as wurtzite. The name of microlite was discredited and placed under pyrochlor variety microlite

The rate of discovery of new minerals is accelerating. The use of new instrumentation and increased computing power such as the Raman spectroscopy, XANES and other specialized applications to ascertain composition and structure of minerals, now required to approve a new mineral species, has increased the number of new mineral species. In 2005 and 2015 respectively 100 and 135 new mineral species were identified. Peter Dunn, now retired characterized 134 new minerals. Recently Ivo Pekoff, Moscow State University, Russian Federation, has characterized 200 new minerals.

Before 1959 the plethora of mineral names created great confusion among mineralogists and collectors. There were 35,000 obsolete mineral names. In 1959 the International Mineralogical Association decided to establish uniform validated names for minerals. The 1977 Mineralogical Record described the naming process.

As new instrumentation such as Raman spectroscopy and XANES became available, criteria for accepting a new mineral species became more detailed and rigorous from 1960 to 2015. For example, a mineral species might be defined by its bulk chemical composition but now characterized also by the location of specific elements in its structure.

Any "mineral made by human intervention" is not included. For example, "new" minerals such as oxy chlorides of lead and copper found in the slags from lead and silver smelting altered by exposure to air and sea water in Laurium, Greece and elemental selenium, selenium dioxide, or ammonium hexafluorsilicate found at the exits of fumaroles from underground burning coal seams near Scranton, PA would not be recognized as minerals.
The senior author of a newly approved new mineral species has the right to name the new mineral species.

Criteria for naming a new mineral species include the following:
*Traditional and long used names based on color and other visible properties such as hematite named from its red streak looking like dried blood, and fluorite from it low melting point temperature.
*After a locality where found, such as apexite for the Apex Mine in Nevada.
*Chemical composition such as zincite, sulfur, or gold.
*After the name of a worthy person, benefactor, celebrity, cats, wives, lovers, or a person known to the discoverer respectively such as yedlinite for Neal Yedlin, morganite for J.P Morgan and sorosite for George Soros. Goethite was named for the German poet Goethe. Rruffite was named for Rruff the cat, which was also the name of the University of Arizona project. Winstanleyite was named after the wife of Dr. Williams. Our conference presenter, Tony Nikischer has a mineral named after himself, nickischerite.
*After the name of an institution or other object such as carltonite for Carlton University and cerite for the newly discovered asteroid Ceres.

Artsmithite - the first mercury phosphate, named for Art Smith, found at the Funderburk Prospect,

Pike County, Arkansas
Nevadaite - named for the State of Nevada, found at Gold Quarry Mine, Eureka County, Nevada

Photomicrography by Tony Nikischer

Stichtite

By Michael Pabst

Chromite ($Fe^{2+}Cr_2O_4$) and Magnesiochromite ($MgCr_2O_4$) are the only important ores of chromium. These are dark brown (appearing black) minerals of the Spinel family, which rarely show small octahedral crystals. For example, see Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-33042. Chromite usually appears as black irregular blobs. We observed inclusions of black chromite in Grossular in my previous article on Chromian Garnets and Uvarovite.

Stichtite is a chromium mineral that forms from the oxidation of Chromite and Magnesiochromite. Stichtite is the chromium member of series of trigonal minerals of the Hydrotalcite Group, that includes Desautelsite and Pyroaurite. The minerals of the Hydrotalcite group are mica-like, pearly, and waxy.

Stichtite: $Mg_6Cr_2(CO_3)(OH)_{16}{\cdot}4H_2O\ Cr^{3+}$
Desautelsite: $Mg_6Mn_2(CO_3)(OH)_{16}{\cdot}4H_2O\ Mn^{3+}$
Pyroaurite: $Mg_6Fe_2(CO_3)(OH)_{16}{\cdot}4H_2O\ Fe^{3+}$

Although soft and friable, Stichtite has an attractive purple color. So rocks that contain Stichtite are often cut into cabochons and other ornamental shapes. One such rock is "Atlantisite" which consists of Stichtite and Pyroaurite in a matrix of Lizardite, $Mg_3(Si_2O_5)(OH)_4$, a green serpentine mineral. By definition, "Atlantisite" comes only from Tasmania. On our trip to New Zealand, I purchased a sample of "Atlantisite" at Hettie's Rock and Crystal Shop in Christchurch (www.hetties.co.nz). The rock was packaged with helpful guidance, which I summarize below:

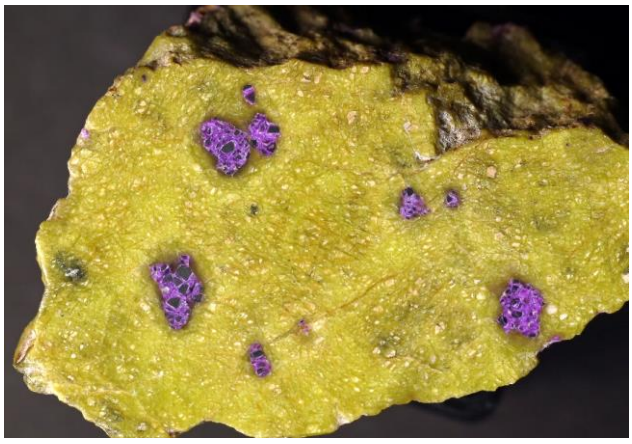
Atlantisite, Stone of Emotional Awareness
Atlantisite moves the Kundalini energy up through the heart chakra, widening awareness of emotion. It can provide openness in opinions, and faithfulness in promises. It is a calming and peaceful stone, teaching one to be gentle with oneself and others. It also provides companionship for those who are alone, and stimulates positive behavior in children.

Pretty impressive for 4 New Zealand dollars! I sense that it would not be in the spirit of Crystal Enlightenment to ask critical questions here. So we will absorb our therapeutic benefits by looking at some pictures of "Atlantisite" below.

The first photo shows a broken surface of "Atlantisite" rock, featuring aggregates of purple Stichtite along with minor orange Pyroaurite, and yellow-green Lizardite.

Close-up of broken "Atlantisite" rock, showing purple Stichtite and orange Pyroaurite in yellow-green Lizardite serpentine, from Stichtite Hill, Tasmania, Australia. FOV 7 mm.

If the "Atlantisite" is sawn and polished, tiny nodules of Magnesiochromite can be seen to be the source of the Stichtite.



Sawn and polished section of "Atlantisite" from the same sample, showing yellow-green Lizardite, purple Stichtite, and black Magnesiochromite. From Stichtite Hill, Tasmania. FOV 35 mm.

Close-up view of the polished rock above, showing a nodule of **Stichtite and Magnesiochromite** surrounded by Lizardite. FOV 5 mm.

And now, having seen Stichtite and Pyroaurite from Tasmania, let us complete this look at the Hydrotalcite Group. Here is a photo of Desautelsite, which is the manganese analog of Stichtite. Desautelsite can be found locally at the Hunting Hill Quarry in Rockville, Maryland, although the crystals are very tiny.

Desautelsite, Hunting Hill Quarry, Rockville, Montgomery County, MD. FOV 1 mm.

Desautelsite was named for Paul E. Desautels (1920-1991), who was Curator of Gems and Minerals at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution for 25 years. Paul Desautels added greatly to the Smithsonian collection by acquiring important older collections and by gathering the best examples of contemporary finds. He wrote the popular book, *The Mineral Kingdom* (Paul E. Desautels, Ridge Press, New York, 1968), which can be found in almost every public library. A few years later, he wrote *The Gem Kingdom* (Random House, New York, 1970). Back in ancient times (1972-1974), when I worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, I had the opportunity to visit the storage room, full of glass cases, where Paul displayed recent acquisitions before they appeared in the public galleries. The specimens and the lighting were better in that room than in the public galleries, which at that time were a bit gloomy before they were remodeled. I was astonished. I realized then that Paul Desautels was driving the collection to new heights, which the present display confirms.

For a nice picture of Desautelsite from California, see Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-466554. And for Pyroaurite, the iron analog of Stichtite, Mindat provides a "rose" of Pyroaurite: www.mindat.org/photo-433333.

I think that my "Atlantisite", which is sitting here before me, is inducing a state of peace and sleepiness. So I will end, and dream of chromium minerals.

Photomicrography by Michael Pabst

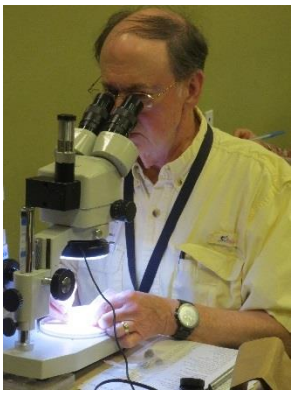
Atlantic Micromounters' Conference April 22-23, 2016 Recap

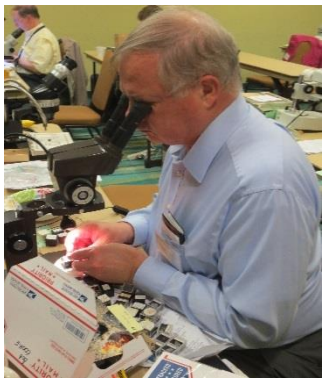
By Kathy Hrechka, Conference Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our featured speaker Tony Nikischer, MNCA members, micro mineral dealers, and conference attendees for another successful conference. Let the pictures say the thousand words

Tony Nikischer

Tony Nikischer and Pete Dunn





Steve Weinberger **Robert Cooke**

L-R Barbara Sky, Dave Hennessey, Scott Duresky, and Dave MacLean

Micro dealer, Betsy Martin and Steve Weinberger

Harry Doyle is deciding which micros to buy.

Mike Seeds enjoying micros.

Micro dealer's room for: Al Pribula, Andy Dietz, Betsy Martin, and Carolyn Weinberger

Thank you! Tony Nikischer, MNCA team; Dave MacLean, Karen & Mike Pabst, Bob Cooke, Dave Hennessey, John Kress, Robert Clemenzi and Barbara Sky. All attendees made this year's conference a success.

Thank you! Dealers; Al Prbula, Andy Dietz, Betsy Martin, and Carolyn Weinberger.

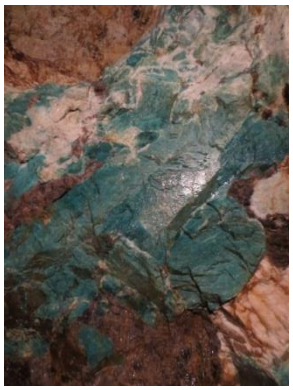
Sincerely, Kathy Hrechka

Photos courtesy of Mike Seeds & Kathy Hrechka

Morefield Mine Amelia Co, Virginia
2016 List of Species

as published in Mineral News in March, 2016
Vol. 32 No. 3
by Lance E. Kearns, Betsy S. Martin and Michael A. Wise

albite
allanite
annite
bermanite
bertrandite
beryl
bismutite
brockite
calcite
cassiterite
cerussite
chalcopyrite
chiolite
clinobisvanite
clinoptilolite-(Ca)
columbite –(Fe)
columbite-(Mn)
cookeite
cryolite
elpasolite
fergusonite-(Y)
fluellite
fluorapatite
fluorite
galena
gearksutite
goyazite
hollandite
humboldtine
illite
kaolinite
lindbergite
manganese oxide
microcline
microlite
molybdenite
monazite-(Ce)
muscovite
native bismuth
native lead
opal
pachnolite
phenakite



phosphosiderite
plumbogummite
prosopite
pyrite
pyromorphite
pyrophyllite
quartz
ralstonite
rutile
samarskite-(Y)
schorl
serrabrancaite
siderite
spessartine
strengite
sussexite
tantalite-(Fe)
tantalite-(Mn)
thomsenolite
topaz
triplite
weddellite
wulfenite
zinnwaldite
zircon

List provided by Betsy Martin, Richmond, Virginia

Editor's note: Betsy Martin attended our conference as a dealer. Coincidentally, she is currently featured in an in depth article, "Mineral Discoveries at the Morefield Pegmatite of Amelia, Virginia" in the March edition of *Mineral News*, which Tony Nikischer publishes. To read the entire article, I encourage you to subscribe to Tony's publication. Details may be found on his website.

www.excaliburmineral.com

You may also need to shop in Tony's rock shop, as he has a huge selection of minerals, including a research area. I managed to find smithsonite micros from numerous localities, just by sitting and sorting through unlimited flats of his minerals.

Excalibur Mineral Corporation
1885 Seminole Trail (Rt. 29N) @ Woodbrook Dr.
Charlottesville, VA 22901 Tel: 434-964-0875
Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-4pm.

Eastern Federation of Mineralogy & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Region IV Potluck Picnic & Rock Swap/Sale

Gilbert Run Recreational Park
Charlotte Hall, MD
Saturday, June 18, 2016
9 am - 5 pm
The Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club is the proud sponsor for 2016

Admission to the Park is $5 per carload
(No charge for swapping or selling)
"This is an old-fashioned rock swap where people who collect rocks, minerals and fossils will be selling and trading specimens"

Details:
This is a free event for all EFMLS rock club members and their families and friends. In addition to minerals, fossils and lapidary for swap/sale each attendee/family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share, and one labeled specimen donation for an auction that will take place after lunch.
The auction will help defray the cost of the event. There is ample parking for tailgate swapping/selling. Please bring your own tables and chairs. There are onsite restrooms and handicap access. Donations of excess rocks and related tools to the "Treasure Box" are welcomed and are free for anyone to take. The Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club will provide plates, cups, plasticware, sodas, and bottled water.

Contact Person: Dave Lines (240)-427-7062
Schedule of Events: 9am – noon Swap & Sell
Noon – 1:30 Pot luck lunch & auction
1:30 – 5PM Swap & Sell
Directions:
From the D.C. Beltway:
Take Rt. 5 South (Exit 7A) towards Waldorf
Go 12.3 miles and turn left onto Mattawoman Beantown Rd.
Go 3.2 miles and turn left onto Leonardtown Rd. (Rt.5).
Go 4.9 miles and turn right on Olivers Shop Rd.
Go 5.9 miles and turn left onto Charles St. (Rt 6)
Go 1 mile and turn left into Gilbert Run Recreational Park
From Rt. 301, take Rt. 6 East (Charles St) 8.6 miles
Turn left into Gilbert Run Park and follow the signs to the Hill top Pavilion parking.

Submitted by Jean Charsky, EFMLS Region IV VP

George Reimherr: Named 2016 Honorary MNCA Club Member

By Kathy Hrechka

On behalf of Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area membership, we have awarded George Reimherr a lifetime membership. It was announced on April 23, 2016 at the Atlantic Micromounters Conference. George was chosen for his dedication to promoting our hobby. George is probably the longest standing member who has attended our Atlantic Micromounters conference throughout the 43 years.
Congratulations, from your fellow mineral friends!

Geology Field Trips in May

By David Fryauff

The GLMSMC has invited MNCA members of collecting field trips during the Month of May:

1. Saturday, May 7th at 8 am at the Vulcan
edul Garrisonville quarry...must verify with Sam Linton
9:00 2. Wednesday, May 11th at 9 am at the Bluegrass
12:0 Beaver Creek quarry in Hagerstown, MD. Verify
1:30 with Sam Linton.
3. Tuesday, May 24th at 9 am at the Bluegrass Medford Quarry in Westminister, MD. Verify with Sam Linton.
4. Saturday, May 28th invitational at 10 am at the CK Williams Quarry, Rte. 311, Easton, PA. Verify with Tom Pankratz.

All who are attending must have their signed Waiver & Indemnification agreement, a full set of the required personal safety equipment, and a copy of the rules. Be safe & see you soon.
Dave Fryauff 240-277-7206

GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

cumberlandite (cum'-ber-land-ite") A coarse-grained ultramafic rock with olivine crystals (approximately 50 percent of the total rock) in a groundmass of ilmenite and magnetite (together, 40 percent), labradorite, and accessory spinel. The state rock of Rhode Island; the name, given by Wadsworth in 1884, is for the town of Cumberland in that state.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

Communication and Involvement Are the Keys to Our Success!

Northwest Federation to host the 2016 AFMS Convention – Show July 27-August 1 in Albany, Oregon

AFMS Springs into Action

By Matt Charsky, President

For those of us who live with a distinct change of seasons, spring is the time when we spring into action. If you are fortunate to live in the southeast and southwest, your hobby is in full swing with field trips and outdoor gatherings. Up north, all those hobby-related activities that we could not do in winter are now possible, even the dreaded spring cleaning. More than I care to admit, I get asked the same question repeatedly – what does the AFMS do?

I would like to think everybody reads every page of the AFMS Newsletter and is up to speed on what we do. The following highlights are for those people who might have missed an issue or two.

*Lauren Williams and members of the Scholarship Foundation are working to keep scholarship levels the same and our investments on track for 2016. Individuals and clubs may donate to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation throughout the year.

*The Northwest Federation particularly the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society is working hard as the host club of the next AFMS Convention in Albany, OR from July 27-August 1, 2016! In addition, Doug True is planning an inter-regional field trip around the Convention.

Article continued on AFM website. March newsletter

Official Magazine of the AFMS

Geology Events:

May:

9–15: EFMLS Wildacres Little Switzerland, NC. Helen Serras Herman, "speaker in residence" is a world renowned glyptographer (gem stone carver). **September 5–11: EFMLS Wildacres** will feature Alfredo Petrov as the "speaker in residence". Alfredo has traveled the world and is extremely knowledgeable about minerals. $400 plus materials fee; registration begins January 1; information at http://efmls-wildacres.org/
Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

21: Towson, MD—27th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show; Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society; Ruhl Armory, York Rd at I-695 chesapeakegemandmineral.org

23: NVMC Meeting "Mineral Adventures" 7:45-10pm at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA

25: MNCA Meeting "**Wildacres View"** 7:45 – 10pm by David Fryauff. He will share his experiences from the May 9 – 15 geology retreat. Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA

June:

18: Eastern Federation of Mineralogy & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS)Region IV Potluck Picnic & Rock Swap/Sale Gilbert Run Recreational Park Charlotte Hall, MD Sat., June 18, 2016 9am - 5pm The Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club is proud to sponsor it in 2016. Details on page 10 in this edition of The Mineral Mite.

Note from Jennie Smith Dallas, Texas

Dear Sheryl,
It's nice to be remembered. I am glad that you are still getting a lot of enjoyment from our hobby. Putting on a Rock Show is hard work but it is one of the most satisfying aspects of the hobby. It is great that you share this experience with your friend. Keep up the good work! I find great enjoyment reading the newsletters. One thing about our hobby is that it is so wide and varied that it will keep your interest even when you are an old lady of 93!
Best Wishes, Jennie

Submitted by Sheryl Sims GLMSMC Show

Visit with Fred Schaefermeyer 5/10/16

By Kathy Hrechka

I recently visited Fred and Muriel at their home in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado. While Fred, age 97 asked me not to take any photos of him, I decided to memorize his face in my mind. His deep brown eyes are still filled with joy for geology, along with and the many friends who share that passion. I got a glimpse of his daily exercise routine, for which he is dedicated to keep his muscles strong. I was most impressed with Muriel, who is humbly dedicated to Fred twenty-four hours each day. We enjoyed a pizza party for dinner.

Fred and I concentrated on the name of the original owner of the micromount collection which resides at James Madison University. It took a while, but we recalled Phil Cosminsky. We also talked about the Paul Seels famous micromount collection which is kept at the Denver museum, under the curation of James Hurlbut. My next visit is scheduled for June.

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/ Historian: 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 affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2016
$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

AFMS Editor's Award
First Place 2011 - Mini Bulletins
Sixth Place 2014 - Small Bulletins
Second Place 2015 – Small Bulletins

Member inputs:
***Dave MacLean**
***Michael Pabst**
*** Mike Seeds**
***Bob Cooke**
*** Sheryl Sims**