Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 52 – No. 5 **Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists** **May 2019**

May 22 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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

Program: Natural History Museum Los Angeles Co. Gem & Mineral Hall

Kathy Hrechka will share her recent discoveries from the Gem and Mineral Hall. While focusing on the scientific mineral collection, she overlooked the obvious, gold exhibit. What an amazing historical exhibit. While her husband was at his orthodontic convention, Kathy needed to be in this gallery.
Workshop: bring micros to share.

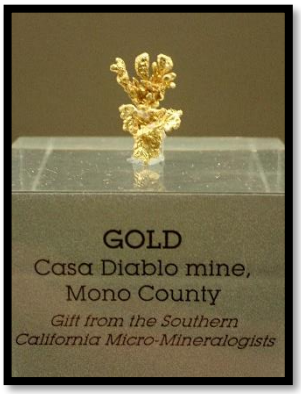
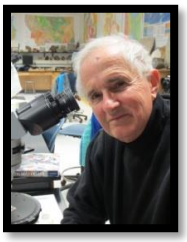


Photo of the Month

Graphite Lead Hill Mines (Chilson Hill Mine), Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga Township, Essex Co., New York, USA Field of View: 8 mm Steve Stuart

President's Message:



by Dave MacLean

I notice that we see a lot of kids at our micro demos at the two shows at which we demo. I notice many parents who help their kids to look through and loupe or microscope. However, that early experience does not often carry over to adulthood. I am convinced that parental support of their children's activities is a major factor in their hobby's or activity's continuance. A parent can support and/or lead a child's interest but not compel it. I do not know how to turn curiosity to look through a loupe or microscope at a show into longer term interest.

Personally, I learned about rocks and minerals by walking to school across two blocks of open land filled in with glacial drift clayish soil with rocks in it, and by going to the beach on the West Shore of Lake Michigan. The support I received was space to keep the rocks I collected, going to the beach with the family, and receiving mineral related gifts at Christmas and birthdays.

I believe it is essential that we continue to offer the opportunity for kids and adults to see the wonders of the micro world. I have been told many times that you must keep your bait in the water to catch fish.

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Hexagonal graphite flake on material collected by Robert Lauf in 1981 and distributed by him to attendees at the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 5-6, 2019. Photo and specimen; Steve Stuart. Dr. Lauf's article on graphite was published in the Mineralogical Record Vol Fourteen, No. 1 Jan/Feb 1983 Graphite posted S Stuart mindat.org

Previous Meeting Minutes: 4/24/18

by Bob Cooke, Secretary

In the absence of President David MacLean, Vice President David Fryauff called the MNCA meeting to order at 7:45 PM April 24, 2019. No guests or past presidents were present. The ten members in attendance were: Robert Clemenzi, Bob Cooke, Dave Fryauff, Erich Grundel, Dave Hennessey, Kathy Hrechka, John Kress, Michael & Karen Pabst and Barry Remer.
Minutes of the March meeting were approved as published in the Mineral Mite.

Old Business: Kathy Hrechka reported that last month's Atlantic Micromounters' Conference was a success. There were 32 registered attendees
Kathy relayed that her presentation at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium on "Snow Crystal Photomicrography" was well received.

New Business: A collection of Paul Smith's micromineral photographs from the 1993 AFMS awards was available for members to review. Kathy entered those photomicrographs with corresponding micros at the 2019 Rochester Symposium.

Dave Fryauff discussed opportunities for mineral-collecting field trips. Several members had participated in the March 30 trip to Vulcan Quarry; Dave Hennessey reportedly walked away with the best specimens that day. Upcoming trips (details in the May Mineral Mite) will include:
*Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Materials Quarry, Lancaster County, PA (May 11)
*Warrenton Trap Rock Q, Fauquier Co. (May 18)
*Vulcan Materials Company Crushed Stone Quarry, Manassas (June 1)
*National Limestone Quarries, Middleburg and Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder Co, PA (June 24)

The Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show will be May 11 at the Ruhl Armory in Towson, Maryland.

The MSDC monthly meeting on May 1st, will include a talk by Jeff Post on recent mineral acquisitions from Tucson, Arizona by the Smithsonian Institute.

Erich Grundel proposed granting an Honorary Membership to a current MNCA member. All present were in favor of the motion. Michael Pabst will review the MNCA Constitution and By-Laws to confirm procedures and process. (The By-Laws of several other mineral clubs specify the nomination and approval process must be done in secret. "Successful nominees shall be notified but otherwise name(s) shall be kept secret until presentations are made." Consequently, the name of the proposed honoree is not published here.) Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Previous Program Reviewed: 4/24/19

by Bob Cooke, Secretary

University of Delaware Mineralogical Museum: In early April, Dave Hennessey and Kathy Hrechka accompanied Herwig and Christine Pelckmans to Newark, Delaware to tour the University of Delaware Mineral Museum. Dave and Kathy narrated a presentation of mineral photos taken during their museum tour. Many "oohs" and "aahs" were heard during the presentation.

Curator, Sharon Fitzgerald, Ph.D. gave them a first-class tour. The Mineralogical Record published a special edition May/June in 2015 of The Collector and his Legacy: Irène du Pont and the Mineralogical Collection of the University at Delaware.

Hollandite and Chalcophanite

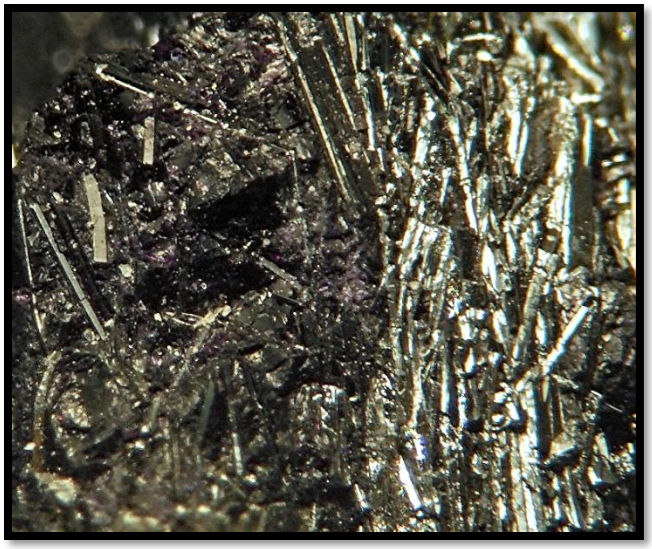
by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

This is the last article on black manganese oxide minerals, at least for a while. There are more than 30 such minerals. At first, I expected that I would not spend much time on manganese oxide minerals, because I thought that they were mostly black and ugly. But once I started looking at these minerals, I found them more interesting than I expected.

I am not alone. Dr. Jeffrey Post of the Smithsonian Institution wrote a definitive article on the manganese oxide minerals: Post JE. Manganese oxide minerals: Crystal structures and economic and environmental significance. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **96**:347-3454, 1999.

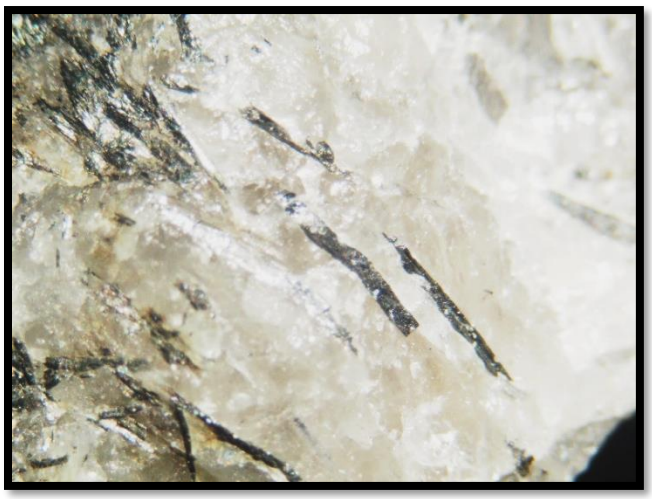
Hollandite Let's begin this last article with Hollandite. Hollandite is Ba $(Mn^{4+}{}_6Mn^{3+}{}_2)O_{16}$. It is a member of the Hollandite Group, where the various members have different cations in the first position in the formula: Hollandite Ba, Coronadite Pb, Cryptomelane K. There is also Ferrihollandite, where Mn^{3+} is replaced by Fe^{3+}. So Ferrihollandite is Ba $(Mn^{4+}{}_6Fe^{3+}{}_2)O_{16}$.

Hollandite is monoclinic 2/m – prismatic, $\beta = 91.03°$. Mohs 4-6. The close-up photo below is of my specimen of Hollandite consisting of silvery needles embedded in purple Fluorite. Although labeled as Hollandite, specimens from this locality are actually Ferrihollandite, because the Hollandite from this locality contains Fe_2O_3 in place of Mn_2O_3. Ferrihollandite is also monoclinic prismatic. Here is a better photo of a better specimen: www.mindat.org/photo-236128.html. The purple and black is a nice color combination (especially in the better Mindat photo).



Ferrihollandite with purple **Fluorite.** Ultevis, Jokkmok, Norrbotten County, Sweden. FOV 3 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

Larger crystals of Ferrihollandite can be found embedded in Quartz. Here is a photo from a different spot on the same specimen, showing bigger crystals of Ferrihollandite.



Ferrihollandite in Quartz from Ultevis, Sweden. FOV 10 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

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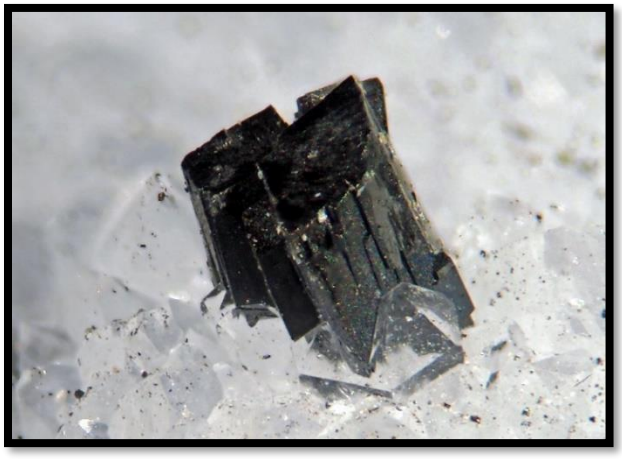
At the recent Atlantic Micromounters Conference, I bought two micro specimens of Hollandite from John Kress. One is pictured below.



Hollandite on Quartz, Black Butte claims, Yavapai County, AZ. FOV 2.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

Here is a photo of good crystals of Hollandite from Liguria, Italy: www.mindat.org/photo-170737.html.

Chalcophanite Another mineral that turned out to be more interesting and beautiful than I expected is Chalcophanite. Chalcophanite is $(Zn,Fe,Mn)Mn_3O_7 \cdot 3H_2O$. It is a member of the Chalcophanite Group (rare minerals with different cations in the first position in the formula including Ag and Ni). Mohs 2½. Color is black, blue-black or dark red (in thin crystals). Chalcophanite is trigonal 3^{-}-rhombohedral. In my specimen there are both thicker black crystals and thinner deep red crystals. I cannot be sure that both the deep red crystals and the black crystals are both Chalcophanite. I thought perhaps the red crystals might be Hematite; but there are pictures of deep red Chalcophanite shown on Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-761650.html. Chalcophanite is often associated with Pyrolusite needles as shown here or in the Mindat photo.

Chalcophanite deep red crystals from Lavrion Greece. FOV 2 mm. Photo by Carsten Slotta of Mintreasure, who sold me this specimen.

Chalcophanite with needles of **Pyrolusite** (or Hollandite). There are red crystals on the left side, and black crystals mixed with the Pyrolusite needles. FOV 3 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

Here is a photo of some less beautiful Chalcophanite from Gold Hill, Utah, but it is associated with beautifully transparent, pale-yellow Adamite crystals. The otherwise uninspiring Chalcophanite makes a good contrasting backdrop to the superb Adamite crystals.

Continued next page

Chalcophanite with clear pale yellow **Adamite** crystals from Gold Hill, Toole County, Utah. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

So that is enough about black manganese minerals for a while. My next article will be about two transparent greenish-yellow manganese minerals featuring manganese in the 4+ oxidation state.

GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

All terms and definitions come from the Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised.

neotype (ne'-o-type) A single specimen designated as the *type specimen* of a species or subspecies when the *holotype* (or *lectotype*) and all paratypes or all syntypes have been lost or destroyed (ICZN, 1964, p.150).

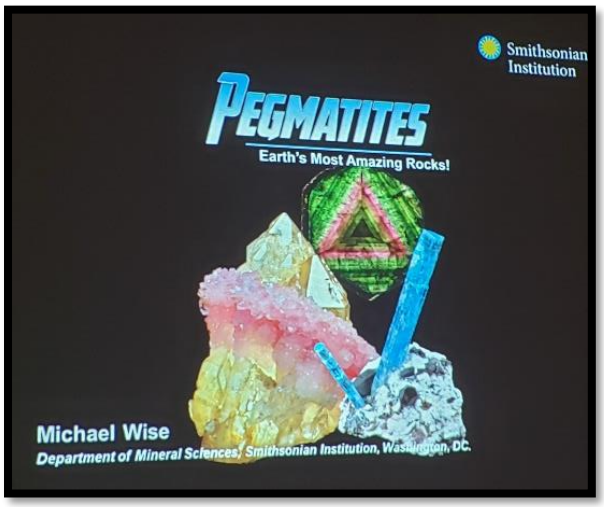
GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by:
EnviroTech! envirotechonline.com

Dr. Michael A. Wise, Mineral Sciences Department at the Smithsonian

by Kathy Hrechka

Dr. Wise recently presented his research of pegmatites to the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County club in Maryland. He focused on worldwide pegmatites and their features. He also promoted the 9th International Symposium on Granitic Pegmatites which is being held on June 11-18 in Pala, California. Details PEG2019.com

Dr. Wise is featured in center photo with quartz.
Note: The faceted topaz was donated by the American Federation Mineralogical Societies through donations by rock hound hobbyists of America.



Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

by Kathy Hrechka

On behalf of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area club members, we thank Dr. Robert J. Lauf along with our 2019 attendees for a successful conference. We appreciate Dr. Michael Pabst for presenting "Rare Earth Minerals". Herwig Pelckmans saved the day by bringing chocolates from Antwerp, Belgium.

We had thirty-two attendees. Kathy featured legacy member, Erich Grundel, who has been an MNCA member since the 1970's. Kathy recognized guests who had traveled the furthest which included; Herwig Pelckmans from Belgium, Frank Ruehlicke from Canada, and Mark Kucera from New York. Kathy also welcomed the youngest attendee Johnathon Pines, a college student from Maryland studying geology. Dave McLean requested a "moment of silence" in honor of Carolyn Weinberger, who died in March.

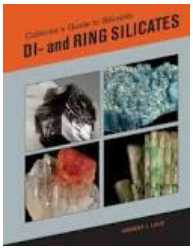
I would like to personally thank our club members for coordinating a fine AMC 2019. Legacy member, Erich Grundel welcomed guests and coordinated name tags and programs. Michael & Karen Pabst photographed and organized the auctions. Bob Cooke provisioned food, with John Kress assisting. Robert Clemenzi was our technical support. Dave Hennessey managed the financial accounting. With all of this coordination, I enjoyed the conference. Thank you, Kathy Hrechka, Conference Chair

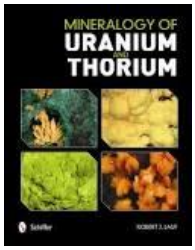
Dr. Lauf at microscope with David Fryauff

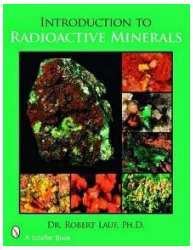
Graphite from Ticonderoga, New York: Dr. Lauf visited the Lead Hill mine and recovered a variety of specimens, particularly graphite single crystals in marble. These were of interest for radiation damage studies, which led him to write an article for The Mineralogical Record, volume 14, January-February 1983. He provided the publication along with Ticonderoga graphite from New York.

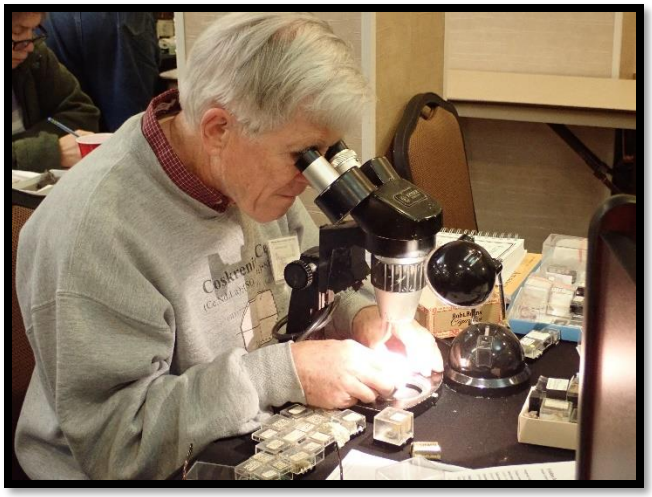
Graphite Lead Hill mine, Ticonderoga, NY photo and specimen by Robert Cooke; donated by Dr. Lauf at conference

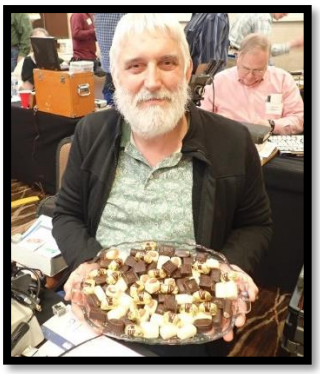
Graphite Lead Hill mine, Ticonderoga, NY photo and specimen by Kathy Hrechka; donated by Dr. Lauf at conference











Eulogy of Carolyn Weinberger 3-29-19

by Cantor Ann Sacks, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

When I met with Steve, Marcia and Marshall, the first thing Steve said about Carolyn was that whatever she put her mind to she exceled at. When Carolyn committed to something, she committed 100% - with all her intellect, enthusiasm, and energy. Steve added; with Carolyn it was always "what you see is what you get." There was no pretense, just honesty and forthrightness. We can imagine how these qualities manifested themselves in Carolyn's professional life as an educator. We know that these were also the qualities that were at the heart of her loving relationship with Steve for over fifty years.

Carolyn was born in 1943 in Baltimore to George and Hilde Mayer, who were fortunate to emigrate from Germany shortly before the war. She attended local public schools and after graduating from Western in 1961 attended Towson's Teacher College. As she began her teaching career in middle school geography and history, she continued to take post-graduate courses. Ten years into her career she was appointed assistant principal at Cherry Hill Junior High, where she remained for eighteen years. Carolyn spent the last three years of her career at Lakeland Elementary/Middle School.

Carolyn's life-long relationship with Steve began in the mid-sixties when both she and Steve were teaching at Woodbourne Junior High. Apparently, this was a relationship that was clearly meant to be, because even their students recognized that they belonged together, scheming in whatever ways they could to make that happen. What the students didn't know was that by the time they were doing this, Steve and Carolyn, who had gotten to know each other at gatherings after PTA meetings, were already seeing each other. It must have been fun for the couple to watch their students plotting unknowingly. It's a tribute not only to the nature of Carolyn and Steve's natural affinity for each other, but of their students' affection for them both as well.

Carolyn and Steve married in the late 60's – a marriage that lasted fifty years. While dating, the two attended a local gem and mineral show, and that experience led them to a life-long passion as collectors and cutters of gems and minerals. They joined the Gem Cutter's Guild of Baltimore in 1970 and have maintained that membership throughout their lives. Carolyn became editor of their newsletter – a position she held for over thirty years. In the coming years she would become the editor for other organizations that expanded well beyond Baltimore. These included the regional Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society, and Wildacres in North Carolina where Carolyn developed her gemstone faceting and cutting skills. As Steve remarked, when Carolyn threw herself into something, she did it 100% and made sure she did the very best job possible for whatever task was at hand.

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Canadian Micro Mineral Association 56th Annual Spring Symposium

May 10–12, 2019 - Brock University, St Catharines, (Niagara) Ontario, Canada Presenters; Dr. Aaaron Lussier & Dr. Mike Seeds - Details contact CMMAfrank@gmail.com

Canadian Micro-Mineral Association
Founded 1964

Website: canadianmicrominerals.ca

Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

by Kathy Hrechka, Editor

I attended the 46th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium on April 11-14. Speakers included; Dr. John Rakovan, Dr. Christopher J. Stefano. Dr. R. Peter Richards, Dr. John Jaszczak, Terry Huizing, Jeff Scovil, William A. Severance, and Les Presmyk,

It was my pleasure to present "Snow Crystal Photomicrography" during the technical session, which was moderated by Dr. Carl Francis. While I have been photographing snow flakes for the past five years in Virginia, I was glad to share my adventures with the science minded audience. Representing our club, I also exhibited mixed microminerals in the display room.

SNOW CRYSTAL PHOTOMICROGRAPHY
K. Hrechka Alexandria, VA (submitted abstract)

In the winter of 2015, Kathy Hrechka began photographing snowflakes under her Olympus microscope using a Canon Power Shot digital camera attached to the microscope. She captures the snow crystals within seconds before they melt. She also uses her Samsung cell-phone camera held up to the microscope eye piece. Kathy has discovered each snowfall to have its own signature crystals, based on the temperature and humidity.

The structure of crystalline ice contains water molecules in a hexagonal lattice. There are two hydrogen atoms for each oxygen, so the chemical formula is H_2O. The six-fold symmetry of snow crystals ultimately derives from the six-fold symmetry of the ice crystal lattice. Snow crystals are classified in a variety of forms including stellar dendrites, columns, capped columns, plates, stellar plates, needles, rime, and graupel.

This photomicrographic collection of snow crystals illustrates the diversity of ice morphology.

Figure 1. Stellar dendrite, 25X
Figure 2. Stellar plate, 25X

Figure 1. Stellar dendrite, 25X

Figure 2. Stellar plate, 25X

References

Libbrecht K. and Wing, R 2015 *The Snowflake*
Libbrecht, K. 2010 *The Secret Life of a Snowflake*

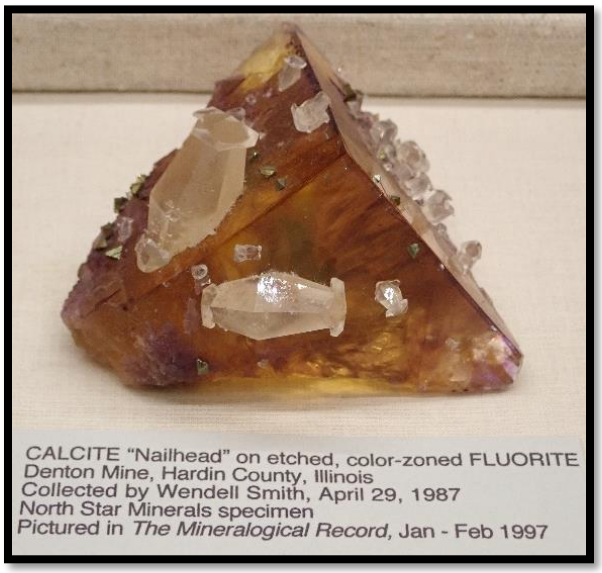
Kathy's Mixed Micromounts, AFMS Trophy 1993

Minerals from Mountains I have Skied; Aspen, Breckenridge, Gore Mountain, and Park Cit by George Loud, past MNCA President

Quartz, Silicate thumbnails by Barbara Sky

The Many Colors of Calcite

Minerals below are from the William Severance Collection as shown in *Mineral Collections in the American Northeast* (A supplement to the Mineralogical Record, Jul-Aug 2016) by William A N. Severance of West Grove, Pennsylvania



Calcite Illinois, pictured in Min Record 1997

Fluorite Illinois featured Min Record 1997

Field Trip Notes:

by Davis Fryauff, Vice-president

We kicked off the new year with a well-attended field trip to the Vulcan Manassas quarry. We had a beautiful day and over 25 people show up at 7:30 am with their signed, dated waivers, rules, and standard safety gear. Our host, Mr. KT Odem, took us down to the 6th bench and from there collectors spread out in every direction. I took interest in some vuggy rock that gave me several small specimens of mordenite, chabazite, calcite, and pyrite. I think there might also be a tiny book of hematite in one of these vugs. The mordenite resembles spiky white puff balls and is so soft and lightly attached to the rock that I ruined several specimens trying to break the rock down from bowling ball to hand size.

There was also some interesting fine-grained pink and olive-green feldspar rock at this site that some of us took home for possible lapidary work, Cabs or spheres might turn out well. The 6th bench inside berm looked about the same as it did when we visited here last fall, so I shifted over to the outside berm and found a collection of large (room-size) boulders that hosted fine drusy crystals of what we all thought was calcite. A small chisel was perfect for harvesting some of this stuff, which came off mostly in small micro and thumbnail sized pieces. Under the loupe it was a collection of opaque white calcite rhombs sitting on top of a mixture of sparkling clear stilbite & apophyllite crystals. It was dirty with road dust, but it cleaned up well at and I was surprised that the calcite crystals lit up well--bright white--under both short and long wave UV. This is the first time I had seen calcite from the Manassas quarry fluoresce white; all my other finds over the years had been pale yellow or orange, but only under short wave UV. I looked up from chiseling that calcite and saw a huge boulder with lots of crystals glinting in the sun, but it was 11:45 and not enough time to do anything except take a few photos.

Some of us gathered at the quarry office to compare notes and Dave Hennessey found some nice prehnite to investigate....on close examination it looked like some other flaky mineral coating some of the prehnite...this turned out to be individual snowflake-like crystals of prehnite and flat, tiny black babingtonite crystals coated on top and bottom with fine silvery-white actinolite hairs. This was the first time in all my trips to the Vulcan Manassas quarry that I had ever seen babingtonite. Tiny but still way too cooool! I think I've been at least 10 times to Vulcan Manassas quarry, and someone asked me why I/we keep going back. There have been lean times and rich times, but always something new and worth discovering. Attached see a few photos from this field trip. Apologies for the UV photo of the calcite shot in the dark with one shaking hand while I was holding the UV lamp with the other. Photography tips are welcome!

The last weekend in April marks the REALLY BIG weekend and GLMSMC official field trip to Sterling Hill & Franklin, NJ--The Franklin Mining District of Sussex Co., NJ is the most famous fluorescent mineral deposit in the world and one of the earth's unique super rich deposits of 381 valid mineral species, 72 of which are Type Locality species. The Super Digg is held on Saturday, April 27th at the Franklin Museum/Buckwheat mineral dump and is limited to 250 people. Registration is required with a deadline of Sunday, 21st of April. The BIG Franklin gem, mineral, and fossil show, complete with swap meet, is held on April 27-28 at the Littell Community Center (the old armory). And if this is not enough, the Sterling Hill Mine Museum has its spring garage sale from 9 am to 3 pm on April 27- 28. Since that is the last weekend in the month, daytime collecting is open to all the Sterling Hill collecting sites.

Demand was so great that National Limestone quarries #1 (Middleburg) & #2 (Mount Pleasant Mills) were booked solid through April, May, and virtually all of June. We are lucky to get Saturday June 29th starting at 9 am at the Middleburg quarry office.

I hope to have more news about field trips in the days to come and will alert you all to any new developments.

Have fun out there, collect hard, be smart, courteous, and careful.

Mineral Collecting Field Trips:

by Davis Fryauff, Vice-president

May 11: Saturday, May 11th at 0730 meet at the office of the Haines-Kibblehouse Penn-Md quarry, 303 Quarry Rd, Peach Bottom, PA 17563. RSVP to me by COB on Wed., May 8th so I can give them a head count. We are allowed 25-30 and age 10 with full standard safety gear and parent. Standard safety gear = shatter-proof eye protection, helmet, steel toes, long pants. Safety vest, gloves, water, sunscreen are all advised. Please acquaint yourself with the attached rules & statement of personal responsibility. Bring this signed, dated "hold no blame" waiver with you when you show up and be prepared to give it to our H-K host, Mr. James Lang. We are out at 11:45. Make sure you label your tools and take home everything you come with.

May 18: Sanders Quarry (Vulcan) on Sat May18 from 0800-1100. 5485 Afton Lane, Warrenton, VA 20187. Parking outside the gate is super tight... press together as close as possible if the gate is not open yet, because there is no parking along the road and traffic is fast. Leave one lane open for quarry manager to get in. Very tough quarry... limited amount of crystallization... best for micro collectors. Quartz, calcite, prehnite, pumpellyite, nontronite, sphalerite, etc. Sparse pockets 1-3" in diameter.... Please carpool!!!! RSVP to me by COB Wed., May 15th so I can give them a head count.

June 1: By invitation from the Southern Md club: Saturday, June 1st at 0730 meet at the Vulcan Manassas quarry office parking lot at 8537 Vulcan Lane, Manassas, VA. RSVP to me by COB on Mon., May 20th so I can give the So MD club our head count. Children age 10 with full standard safety gear and parent are permitted. Standard safety gear = shatter-proof eye protection, helmet, steel toes, long pants. Safety vest, gloves, water, sunscreen are all advised. Please acquaint yourself with the attached rules & statement of personal responsibility. Bring this signed, dated "hold no blame" waiver with you when you show up and be prepared to give it to our host, Mr. KT Odem. Out at 11:45.

June 8: Saturday, June 8th meet at the office parking lot of the Vulcan Stafford Quarry at 100 Vulcan Quarry Rd., Stafford, VA. Adults only & collecting only on piles arranged on the floor of the quarry...no berm collecting. RSVP to me by COB on Monday, June 3rd so I can give them our head count. Standard safety gear = shatter-proof eye protection, helmet, steel toes, long pants. Safety vest, gloves, water, sunscreen are all advised. Please acquaint yourself with the attached rules & statement of personal responsibility. Bring this signed, dated "hold no blame" waiver with you when you show up and be prepared to give it to our Vulcan Stafford host. We are out at 11:45. Make sure you label your tools and take home everything you come with. Bring standard safety gear.

June 29: Saturday, June 29th, we are booked for the National Limestone #1 (Middleburg) & #2 (Mount Pleasant Mills) quarries in Snyder Co. PA on Saturday, June 29th at 9 am in the Middleburg quarry office. These are popular and welcoming quarries and EFMLS clubs throughout the east coast have booked virtually all the other Saturdays in April, May, and June. Meet at the office parking lot of National Limestone Quarry #1, at 3499 Quarry Road, Middleburg, PA 17842. We will sign in and get a safety brief from our host, Mr. Eric Stihl and will work this quarry for 2 hours, then go over to National Limestone Quarry #2 at 217 Quarry Rd, Mount Pleasant Mills, PA 17853. Children age 10 with full standard safety gear and parent are permitted. RSVP to me by COB on

I need I mention that these quarries are great places to collect both minerals and fossils. The Wavellite pit at Mount Pleasant Mills is one of the best sites in PA for the collection of phosphate minerals, but they are generally of a size loved only by micromounters.

This is not all, I hope.... I am working hard to generate field trip opportunities for us in several other new places....VA & PA....maybe WV too.

I am working to restart our winter (Jan or Feb) field trip to the James Madison University Geology Dept., Harrisonburg, VA. Continued next page

Dr. Lance Kearns, our wonderful host for many years has retired from the department but continues to serve as the curator of the mineral museum. There will be a new location for the museum & department when January 2020 rolls in. I will provide additional updates as I learn more details. It will be great to have this JMU outreach program to the DMV clubs resume!!!

Be safe, be smart, & good hunting!!!
Contact David fryauffdj@gmail.com

Leidy Microscopical Symposium 2019

by David Fryauff

I attended the Leidy Microscopical Symposium last March 8-9. This was my first time. I met up with some old friends, Erich Grundel, Rob Rothenberg, Steve Stuart. I also made some new friends who are members & officers in Mineral, Fossil, & Lapidary Society of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Rob Rothenberg gave a nice talk & slide show on his & Monet's recent trip to New Zealand. The highlight of which was their visit to the active volcano that forms White Island, 30 miles out from Auckland in the Bay of Plenty. The island was formerly a big sulfur works, but an eruption & pyroclastic flow killed several the workers & they all thought better than to continue the operation. The whole island is a national park and visitors are required to wear helmets & respirators.

Rob & Monet were most fortunate in having a clear day with winds that blew the sulfurous steam away from them and revealing the dramatic volcanic geology, and specialized bird (gannets) & plant life of the island. It is forbidden to take anything, except photos from White Island, but Rob's presentation also included excellent photos of dozens of New Zealand microminerals. While there, Rob met up with local micromounters from all over New Zealand that he knew from correspondence and presented PowerPoint talks to their groups. Rob was impressed by the way New Zealand micromounter groups met in their own, dedicated facilities.

John Ebner's Micromount Museum

by John Ferrante
Adapted from the ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA, INC.
Rock Chatter Vol. 53, No. 5

A recent trip to Arizona by John Ferrante and his wife Karen were the next two goals of his micro talks. The first was to Society member John Ebner's Micromount Museum in Tucson. John Ebner's museum features tens of thousands of micromount specimens and several complete collections of famous micromounters that he acquired over the years he has been micromounting.

There are also several cases of microscopes of a variety of styles and of significant historical value. The main attraction of the museum is John's collection of micromounts that features micromounts mounted by collectors who have a mineral named after them. This extraordinary collection earned John a seat in the Baltimore Mineralogical Society's Micromount Hall of Fame.

John Ebner in his Micromount Museum, Tucson, AZ. Photo courtesy of Tuscan Gem & Mineral Society

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

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Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

Communication and Involvement Are the Keys to Our Success!

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

Geology Events:

May 2019

1: 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

11: Towson, MD - 30th Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd; Towson, MD. 21204. 10:00 am - 4 pm. INFO: www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org

13: 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

17: 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

20: Northern VA Mineral Club - NVMC meeting
7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA
www.novamineralclub.org

22: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area - MNCA meeting
7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA
www.dcmicrominerals.org

Mineralogical Society of America Centennial (1919-2019) Symposium

The Next 100 Years of Mineral Sciences
June 20-21, 2019

MSA will hold a celebratory Centennial Symposium on June 20-21, 2019 at the Carnegie Institution for Science Building, located at 1530 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Fourteen theme colloquia will offer a vision for exciting new directions in mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology as MSA begins its second century. Each theme colloquium will include two 20-minute presentations by invited speakers followed by five minutes of moderated audience discussion.

Lunches will be included with your registration fee, and attendees are invited for a private evening reception in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals in the US National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

We thank the Gemological Institute of America for sponsoring this evening reception. Please join us for this once-in-a-century event!

http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Centennial/MSA_Centennial_index.html *Submitted by Herwig Pelckmans*

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

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

Pres: Dave MacLean, dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com
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The society is a member of:
* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies
(EFMLS) www.amfed.org/efmls
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(AFMS) www.amfed.org Affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2019
$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

Member inputs:
*** Dave MacLean**
*** Michael Pabst**
*** Kathy Hrechka**
***Bob Cooke**
***H. Pelckmans**
***David Fryauff**
***John Ferrante**