Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 47 – No. 8 **Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists** **October 2014**

Meeting: October 22 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.

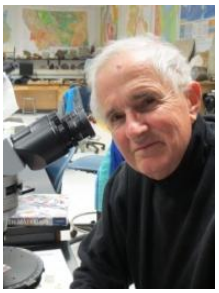
Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204

Program: "Super Digg" Sterling Hill, New Jersey with presenter, Dave Fryauff

The Franklin Mining District of northern New Jersey is one of the most famous economic mining sites in the United States and is made up mainly of the zinc mines at Franklin and Sterling Hill. Both were underground mines that started operating in the mid 1800s. The Franklin Mine remained operating until 1954 and the Sterling Mine operated until 1986.
Continue to page 2-3 for "Sterling Hill"

President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean



We still need volunteers to demo microminerals at the NVMC show especially for the slots Sunday 23 November 12-2PM and 2-4PM. Thank you for the persons who signed up for Saturday 22 November.

I read in the Post a very short article about somebody who found fossil evidence of fossilized eukaryotes (a microorganism with a nucleus) 1.8 billion years BY old. Finding such fossils probably requires an electron microscope. I looked up origins of life for bacteria on the internet. The oldest bacteria fossils are prokaryotes about 3.5-3.7 BY old. The internet entries speculated on how life originated with as many opinions as authors. I have read that organic compounds derived from fatty acids have been found in 4+ BY old rocks suggesting the life may be older than 4 Billion years.
Continue to page 3 for rest of Presidents' Message

Photo of the Month

Bastnaesite crystals from the 3M material on the CMMA give-away table. These look like quartz crystals but are superb prismatic bastnaesites. FOV is about 1 X 1 mm.

Courtesy *Micronews*, Canadian Micro Mineral Association. Volume 48, number 7 September, 2014

"Super Digg" Sterling Hill, N.J.

Continued from page 1

By Dave Fryauff

The Zn content of the ore from these mines is reported to be ~20% and among the highest in the world. Enormous reserves still remain but Zn is apparently more easily obtained as a by-product from massive open pit mines for Cu, Au, Fe, and Mn in other parts of the world (AZ, Canada, Australia). Despite the high Zn content of their ore, these New Jersey underground Zn mines were just too costly to run.

Interestingly, for the Franklin Mining District Mindat reports 361 valid mineral species, 71 of which are type-localities, thus making this relatively small area in New Jersey--mineralogically—one of the world's richest sites (For comparison the Poudrette Quarry at Mont Sainte-Hillaire, Quebec, boasts 400 valid mineral species, 60 of which are type-localities, and the Mn-Fe mine at Langban, Sweden boasts 286 species with 101 type-localities). There are wonderful museums at Franklin, and Sterling Hill that display the best mineral specimens and present the regional geology and economic history of the mines. Moreover, both sites have large mine dumps and areas for specimen collecting at a nominal cost. The Sterling Mine is unique is having tours of both the underground mine and above-ground operations, intact as it was when the mine closed in 1986.

For the past ten years the Sterling Hill Mining Museum has held an annual "Super Digg" in late April. For collectors over 7 years old this is an opportunity to tour the Sterling mine, learn its history, and collect from both the quarries and hundreds of tons of stock-piled high-quality mine-run zinc ore. Over 40 mineral species from the Franklin Mining District are fluorescent, and the Super Digg also gives collectors a chance for night collecting with Short and Long wave ultraviolet "black lights" (both the Franklin & Sterling museums provide dark rooms with black lights for daytime collectors). An estimated 10 tons of never-before collected mine-run ore was the big draw for collectors last year, and 7.5 tons of new mine-run Zn ore were made available to participants of this year's "Super Digg".

For those not wanting to get down and dirty by collecting in the mine dumps and quarries the Sterling Hill Museum offers a special garage sale in which thousands of worldwide mineral specimens from personally donated collections are offered for sale to the public. And on top of that the nearby Franklin Mineral Museum hosts a big Mineral, Gem, & Fossil show that same weekend with many dealers in attendance.

Last year I learned that you need to arrive early if you want to get a good look at the "garage sale" offerings in the 3$, 5$, 10$, and $25 categories. There were hundreds of carefully labeled specimens on sale from the mineral collection of the late Alfred Stevenson, but also many others that were set out without any identification or label at all. I recognized one of these as a neat little pink grossular from the Sierra de Cruces mine in Coahuila, Mexico, and snapped it up for 3 bucks. The garage sale offered a good number of rare and unusual mineral species that you will probably never see (or maybe want) at your average Rock & Gem show; Barbosalite, Kingsmountite, Arsenolite, Desautelsite, Edingtonite, Fluoro-richterite, and Triphyllite to name just a few. Many of these offerings appeared to have been sitting and accumulating dust for years….some had even altered to another mineral!!! The $25 and up table was groaning under the weight of large, showy, over-sized, but common minerals from India, Brazil, and China.

At noon the announcement was made that the tarps would be lifted from the new tonnage, and a mob of very keen-eyed, well-equipped, bucket-toting adults—mainly men over 40--gathered at the site, ready to pounce. It was a bit of a mad rush with each man and/or woman staking out their small claim of the newly exposed pile—about the radius of a swinging 12 pound sledge hammer. In a very short time rocks were tumbling, boulders were being hammered away at, dust and rock chips were flying every which way, but no one much cared because they are all suited up in helmets, eye protection, and sturdy boots and gloves. Within a short time a good number of these discriminating collectors disappear under heavy blankets or tarps to lamp their finds. Kids, of which there are large numbers, have the good sense to stay well back and away from this wild and crazy hammer-swinging mob of adults.

"Super Digg" continued

They are more content to pick through the older picked-over piles or a few special piles of non-Franklin rock and fossil-bearing shale that the museum has, very thoughtfully, brought in for these more dispassionate rock collectors.

The hammering and lamping at the new pile goes on and on through the afternoon and surprisingly few of us seem to be put off by the cold rain that pours down. A few weaker souls take themselves out of the fray and head off to visit the big dealer show in Franklin, just a few miles away. This is great, and gives me a bit more elbow room to swing and a few square feet of new territory to explore. It is wet, gray and gloomy, and the light is fading fast, but with my eyes screwed down to micro level, I manage to find some excellent Loellingite, and then some neat pods of that enigmatic type-locality mineral, sussexite. I find some good black willemite xls, a chunk of gemmy-green willemite, some tiny Arsenopyrite xls, and a well-shaped Franklinite xl before it gets just too dark.

I take a break for a dinner of 6" Subway and a banana inside my car and doze off…….No, I didn't make the four hour drive up here from Maryland this morning like many of our gang did. I drifted off because it was just so nice to rest in a warm dry place. It was a little bit hard to rouse myself to leave this comfort, but I came up here with a brand new, battery-powered Way-Too-Cool UV lamp and this was the PERFECT time and place to use it. Despite the rain and dark, that special pile of new mine-run tonnage was again literally crawling with people, this time it appeared that each one of them was equipped with a super high-powered UV light. There was so much Way-Too-Cool UV light that there was really no need for me to have brought my own lamp. The rocks lit up so brightly from the abundance of willemite and calcite that it was difficult for me to see any of the more nuanced shades color that could indicate Barite or Sphalerite, or Clinohedrite. No, I'm afraid the night part of the Super Digg did not go so well for me. But it was all good fun, really well-organized, the mine tours were great, the people--staff & rockhounds--were all nice, and where else in the world can you find some of these amazing minerals. I love Sterling Hill & Franklin. I try to get up there to collect whenever I get a chance and, God willing, I'll be back for next year's Super Digg.

Article written by Dave Fryauff

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President's Message by Dave MacLean Continued from page 1

I have never met a micromounter who looks at small fossils, which are abundant in many places. What microfossils are found on the west shore of Chesapeake Bay near Calvert Cliffs or Westmoreland State Park

About 18 years ago I washed out fine white silica sand from the gray clay underneath the silt and sand layers along Pohick Creek. Under the scope the grains appeared curved slices and not rounded grains as one would expect from an active beach or creek or most sandstones. Thoughts anybody?

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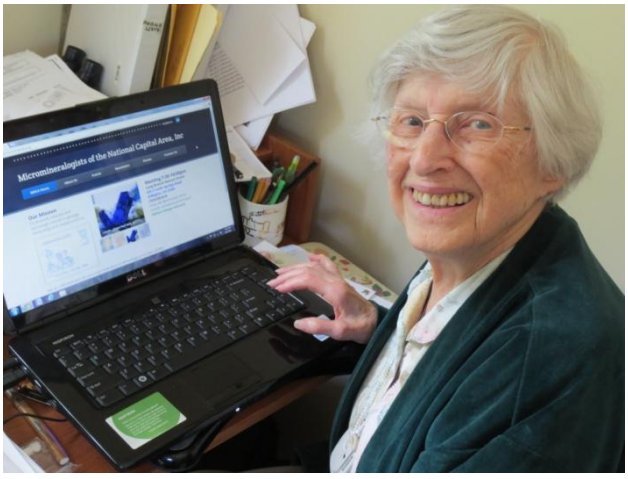
Cynthia Payne, our only charter member since 1967 is demonstrating our new club website.

www.dcmicrominerals.org

Check out her article "Founding and Early Years of the Micromineralogist of the National Capital Area" which can be found on the "about us" tab.



Previous Meeting Minutes: 9/24/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

President Dave MacLean opened the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Ten members and one guest were present. The minutes for the previous meeting on 6/25/14 were approved, as printed in *The Mineral Mite*. The treasurer gave his report.

Old business -- The figures for the sale of micromount specimens from the Cynthia Payne collection are 151 specimens sold at our May meeting, and 90 more specimens sold at our June meeting, with our club receiving $832 from those sales. There are 537 micromount specimens that remain unsold. It was suggested that the unsold specimens be offered for sale at two dollars each. The club voted to offer Cynthia $750 for all the micromount specimens, leaving the club with $82 profit from past sales, and whatever amount comes in from any future sales.

New business -- The club will be demonstrating micromounting at the Northern Virginia mineral club show in November. Members have volunteered for various time slots. Karen Pabst volunteered to be chairman of the nominating committee for selecting club officer candidates for 2015. Our present club officers have volunteered to serve for another year. Dave Fryauff volunteered to be the club's field trip chairman.

Miscellaneous -- Our annual club trip to James Madison University is scheduled for March 5, 2015. Our guest, Dennis Hedrick, discussed the Gold Mining Camp Museum at Goldvein, Virginia, which is open to the public year round, Wednesday through Sunday, except for certain holidays. There is a field trip scheduled by the Northern Virginia mineral club, on Saturday, October 11. 2014. to the Cornwall, PA mine dumps. This falls on the same day as the Desautels Micromount Symposium in Baltimore, The business meeting ended 8:46 pm.

Previous Program Reviewed 9/24/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

The program for the evening had member Michael Pabst discussing and showing photographs of various, colorful uranium minerals.

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.

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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

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2014
$15 (single) or $20 (family)
Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer
270 Rachel Drive
Penn Laird, VA 22846

Editor's Notes:

by 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.
No newsletter July/August

AFMS Editor's Award
First Place 2011 - Mini Bulletins

October Articles:

***Michael Pabst**
***Dave Fryauff**
***Dave Mac Lean**
*****

Kathy Hrechka

Cavansite and Pentagonite, plus Tanzanite

By Michael Pabst

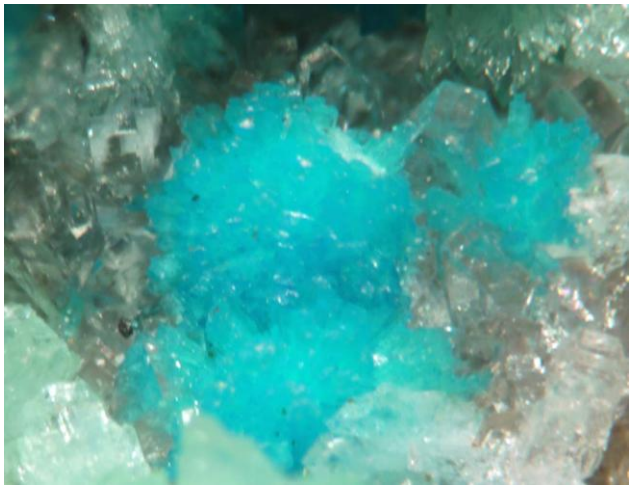
The element Vanadium was named for the Norse goddess of beauty, *Vanadis*, because of the beautiful colors of its compounds. Vanadium in its most oxidized state of V^{5+} often occurs in the form of vanadate $(VO_4)^{3-}$. Vanadates are typically yellow, although polyvanadates can be orange-red. In a recent article, we saw vanadate associated with uranyl ion $(UO_2)^{2+}$, which also often appears yellow or orange, as in Carnotite, $K_2(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$. Or if vanadate is also associated with copper, the mineral is yellow-green Sengierite, $Cu_2(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$. Other vanadates, like Vanadinite, $Pb_5(VO_4)_3Cl$, Descloizite, $Pb(Zn,Cu)(VO_4)(OH)$, Pucherite, $Bi(VO_4)$, and Volborthite, $Cu_3(V_2O_7)(OH)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, are also colorful minerals, prized by collectors, and they will be the subject of future articles.

However, there is also a less common but stable vanadium ion with V^{4+}, the vanadyl ion $(VO)^{2+}$. The vanadyl ion is similar to the uranyl ion $(UO_2)^{2+}$. A remarkable feature of the vanadyl ion is that it is bright blue. (V^{3+} compounds are green and V^{2+} compounds are purple, but they are less stable in the presence of oxygen, at least over geologic times.)

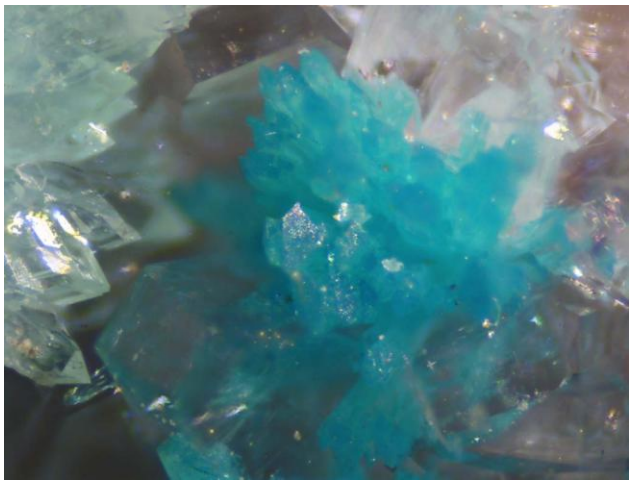
Owyhee, Oregon

Imagine the delight of collectors at the Owyhee Dam in Malheur County, Oregon about 1973, when they found a bright blue mineral amongst the colorless or white zeolites. The new mineral received the sensible name of Cavansite, because it is a calcium vanadium silicate, $Ca(VO)Si_4O_{10} \cdot 4H_2O$. A dimorph (same chemical formula) was also found, and named Pentagonite, because its twinned crystals showed a five-pointed star in cross-section. These two vanadyl minerals from Owyhee Dam required a good microscope to properly appreciate, but the lovely blue color and a glimpse of a pentastar were worth a bit of eyestrain.

Both Cavansite and Pentagonite are orthorhombic, but Pentagonite has less symmetry in its atomic arrangement. Therefore, Pentagonite crystal forms are less symmetrical than the crystal forms of Cavansite. Cavansite (*mmm* dipyramidal) tends to form compact balls that are formed from crystals with symmetrical wedge-shape terminations. Pentagonite (*mm2* pyramidal) tends to form more scattered groups of bladed crystals with off-center terminations.



Above: **Cavansite,** Owyhee Dam, Malheur County, Oregon. Field of view = 3 mm. Below: Another view from the same specimen, Field of view = 2 mm. (The picture on the top was taken through my stereomicroscope, while the picture on the bottom was taken with a tube and bellows with a Luminar 40 mm lens, using the same camera, a Panasonic GF3.)



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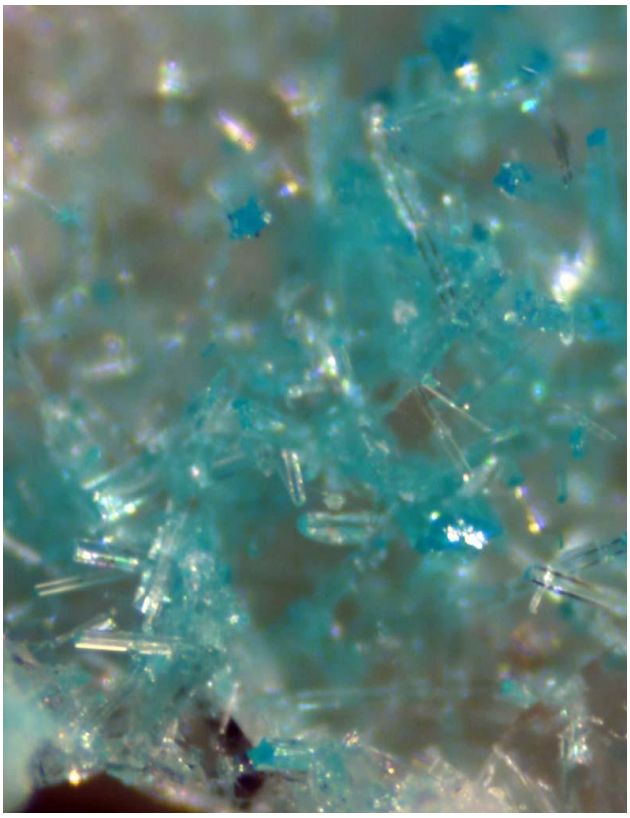


Pentagonite, Owyhee Dam, Malheur County, Oregon, Field of view = 2 mm.
Blow-ups below show pentastar cross-sections of two twinned crystals. Field of view = ~0.15 mm. (Puzzle: Can you find the blow-ups in the picture?)

With high magnification and good imagination, the pentagonal star cross-section of Owyhee Pentagonite can just be discerned in the photos from my specimen. It is actually fairly easy to see the tiny pentastars in the scope, but they are difficult to photograph, even with the bellows and the Luminar lens, because of their tiny size ~0.1 mm across.

Pune, India

Around 1989, the amazing finds of Cavansite and Pentagonite from the Pune District, Maharashtra, India exploded onto the scene. Unbelievable gorgeous deep blue crystal groups perched on contrasting white zeolites were found. In quality and abundance, the Indian Cavansite and Pentagonite greatly surpassed the Owyhee Dam material. However, my impression is that the pentagonal star twins are rare in the Pentagonite from India. On Mindat (www.mindat.org), there is only one picture of a Pentagonite pentastar cross-section from India among 199 photos of Pune Pentagonite. Of course, there is also only one such photo among the 6 Pentagonite photos from Oregon.

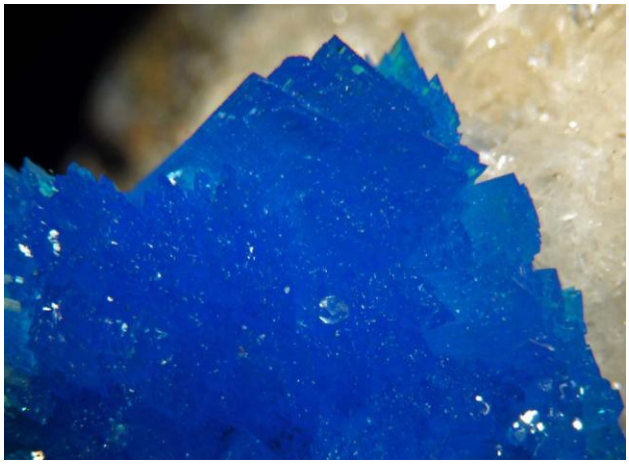
In the October 2013 issue of *The Mineral Mite*, there are pictures that I took of museum-quality specimens of Cavansite and Pentagonite from Wagholi, Pune, India, that are on display at the A. E. Seaman museum in Houghton, Michigan. (Recent issues of *The Mineral Mite* are available on our website: www.dcmicrominerals.org, so you can see these photos again easily.) But such is the abundance and the quality of the Pune Cavansite and Pentagonite that near-museum-quality specimens are available to collectors with middle-class (well, perhaps, upper middle-class) budgets.

As a micromineralogist, I feel a touch of resentment that ordinary collectors (Muggles) can see such wonderful blue crystals without magnification! However, with magnification, one can see that many Cavansite specimens have dings. So, magnification helps to find more perfect Cavansites. And, to appreciate the full beauty of the Pentagonites, some magnification really is needed. As magnificent as some of the Cavansite and Pentagonite crystal groups are to the naked eye, a magnified view that clearly shows the forms of a few perfect crystals is even more impressive.

Article continued on next page

Crystal Groups of Cavansite & Pentagonite

Above**: Cavansite**, Wagholi Quarry, Pune District, Maharashtra, India. Field of view = 2.5 mm.Below: **Pentagonite,** Wagholi Quarry, Pune District, Maharashtra, India. Field of view = 6 mm.



Above: **Cavansite** (part of a ball of crystals), Wagholi Quarry, Pune District, Maharashtra, India. Field of view = 11 mm.

Below: **Pentagonite and Stilbite** (forming a tree), Wagholi Quarry, Pune District, Maharashtra, India. Field of view = 8 mm.

Article continued on next page

Cavansite and Pentagonite, plus Tanzanite continued

Cavansite and Pentagonite are not the only minerals where the vanadyl ion contributes its beautiful blue color. Perhaps you have admired the beautiful blue-violet color of the "Tanzanite" variety of Zoisite from Tanzania. Zoisite is an orthorhombic sorosilicate with the formula: $\{Ca_2\}\{Al_3\}(Si_2O_7)(SiO_4)O(OH)$. Zoisite occurs all over the world in a variety of colors. Unlike the situation with Cavansite and Pentagonite, vanadium is not part of the essential formula for Zoisite. However, the marvelous blue-violet color that occurs only in the Merelani Hills of Arusha, Tanzania, is due, at least in part, to the vanadyl ion. Vanadium and titanium substitute for some of the aluminum in Tanzanite.

Zoisite (variety "Tanzanite") from Merelani Hills, Arusha Region, Tanzania

This magnificent specimen of Zoisite was exhibited at a recent Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. The little price sticker could barely accommodate the digits: $350,000! As I remember, the crystal above is about 4 inches tall, but that is just a guess. It is big! This picture was taken through a glass case with a pocket camera, so the picture does not do justice to the specimen. However, because of the size of the crystal, the color is definitely dark and deep.

For more information about the Merelani, Tanzania locality, there is an entire issue of *The Mineralogical Record* devoted to the subject, including not only Tanzanite, but also Zoisite of various other colors, Tsavorite green garnets, and Diopside, Axinite, etc. There is also an impressive picture showing the trichroic colors of an unheated Zoisite crystal, revealed by looking down the x, y, and z axes. (*Mineralogical Record* **40**:347-408, Number 5, September-October 2009. This issue is still available at www.minrec.org for $18.)

A crystal of **Zoisite, variety Tanzanite**, from Arusha, Tansania. Field of view = 8 mm. The crystal is 9 mm tall

Article continued on next page

Cavansite and Pentagonite, plus Tanzanite continued

Zoisite, variety Tanzanite, from Arusha, Tansania. Field of view = 8 mm. The crystal is 9 mm tall

I did not buy the expensive specimen in Tucson, only because smaller crystals show better color, like my humble specimen below. My crystal is pictured from the "front" and from the "side", showing the marked dichroism from blue to purple. Unheated tanzanite is actually trichroic: blue, purple, burgundy, giving an overall brownish color. But essentially all Tanzantite is heated, including, I assume, my little crystal, because I can only see two colors. Heating may cause the oxidation of V^{3+} to V^{4+}, with resulting increase in the intensity of the blue color. Another theory states that the vanadium is always V^{4+}, but that heating causes formation of the vanadyl ion $(VO)^{2+}$. Finally, I note with satisfaction that my crystal is about 1000 times less expensive than the one shown in Tucson. Yet I can still see the beautiful color of the vanadyl ion.
Photomicrography by Michael Pabst

42st Annual

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference
April 10 – 11, 2015

Presented by

The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. invite you to attend our annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 10 – 11, 2015

Our featured speaker will be Robert Rothenberg from Oneonta, New York. Robert has collected micros since 1964, and has been a photomicrographer for the past ten years.

2015 Special recognition goes to Barbara Sky, and charter member Cynthia Payne.

Location: Springhill Suites by Marriott, Alexandria. 6065 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303 Phone (571) 481-4441

Registration: KathyHrechka, MNCA Conference Chair kshrechka@msn.com

Details are posted on our club website:
Tab Events - Conference
www.dcmicrominerals.org

Panning for Gold in Goldvein, VA

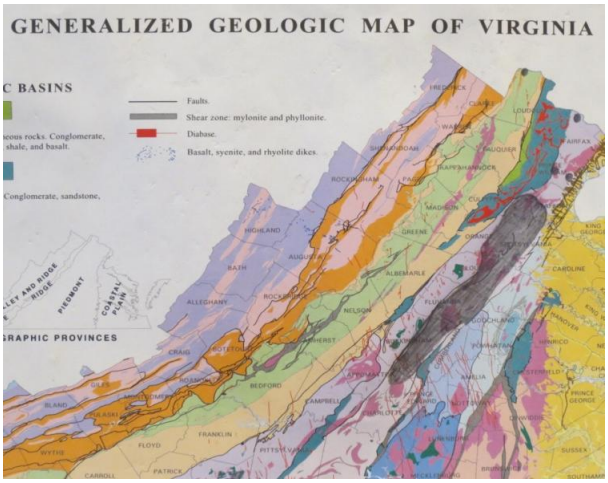
By Kathy Hrechka

On October 4, the Northern Virginia Gold Prospecting Club invited members of the MNCA to their Annual club picnic at Monroe Park, along with a chance to pan for gold. Their club meets monthly from April through October in Goldvein. With permission from the land owner, the Gold Prospecting club has a claim in the Rocky Run Creek, where members set up camp in the stream to pan for gold.

Prospector, Dennis Hedrick recently attended our MNCA meeting, introducing us to his gold collecting technique of his home-made sluice. Since I have always wanted to pan for gold in Goldvein, I decided to make the trek to Goldvein. I was greeted by Bill Duckwitz, club president along with many friendly club members at their annual picnic. I was happy to win a portable barbeque grill as one of their many door prizes. After their meeting and lunch, I toured the local gold mining museum before proceeding to the stream.

History of Gold Mining in Fauquier Co., Virginia:

In Virginia, there is a gold belt that encompasses an area of some 4000 square miles, starting from Maryland and running Southwest to the North Carolina state line. The Virginia gold belt varies in width from 15 to 25 miles and measures 200 miles in length. The Virginia gold belt passes through southeastern Fauquier County, at the Morrisville/Goldvein area. It is here where approximately 18 gold mines were discovered in the 1800s. **Map shows gold belt shaded in graphite.**



Monroe Park Gold Miners Museum

Dennis Hedrick & Kathy Hrechka gold panning

Gold flakes, nugget & Sluice: Dennis Hendrick

Steve and Caroline Weinberger Inducted into the Micromounter's Hall of Fame

By Dave Mac Lean, MNCA President

Steve and Caroline Weinberger, along with Dr. Carl Rilling (deceased 1970) represented by his son, Dr. David Rilling, were inducted into the "Micromounter's Hall of Fame" at the Baltimore Mineral Society's 58th Annual Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium, which was held at the Friends School in Baltimore, MD on October 10-12, 2014.

The master of ceremonies, Quintin Wight said that Hall of Fame members are recognized for their contributions to the field of micromounting in many ways. Steve and Caroline Weinberger started out in the 1960's first in lapidary, faceting, then minerals, and finally collecting, mounting and photographing minerals.

Steve gave a program starting out with a quiz by asking the persons present to identify the minerals represented by their complex formulas. The minerals were andrianovite, manganeudialyte, and sejkoraite. Then he showed micro photographs of minerals starting out with native elements, single metallic and bimetallic sulfides, halides, oxides, and finally carbonates.

Dr. David Rilling received the award plaque in honor of his father Carl Rilling. Four years after his father's death, David began mounting and photographing micro minerals. Carl Rilling was a very active member of the Leidy Microscopic Society in Philadelphia. In 1962 Carl Rilling developed techniques for obtaining three dimensional 3D slides of foraminifera and then minerals. To the music of a Viennese waltz, David showed 3D slides of minerals from his father's and the Keeley collections. The microphotographs of the minerals appeared in 3D as we wore 3D glasses.

The conference included lots of time for talking, trading, selecting treasures from the freebie table, silent auction, voice auction, dealers and looking at the exhibits. MNCA club members in attendance included Dave MacLean, David Fryauff, George Reimherr, Kathy Hrechka, Michael & Karen Pabst, Cynthia Payne, Mike Seeds, and the Weinbergers.

Quintin Wight presenting Carolyn & Steve Weinberger with their plaque which states:

Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, although involved in slightly different aspects of the mineral and micromounting hobby, form together an inseparable unit whose influence has been felt from coast to coast.

Their interests and actions, while not identical, form a cohesive whole covering a wide spectrum of mineral-related activity. for more than fifteen years, they have served in board positions in both the Micromineralogists of the national Capital Area and the Baltimore Mineral Society. Both have also held positions in other mineral groups, including the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary societies (EFMLS) and the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS), in some cases for up to 35 years. Steve is past president of both the EFMLS and AFMS, and Carolyn has been editor of their newsletters for many years. Both have taught micromounting classes at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops, and are major organizers of the program there. They have also been honored with awards from the EFMLS, AFMS, and other mineral organizations for services rendered.

They are spread across the entire spectrum of the hobby, and not restricted to micromounts, but it is certain that neither the Atlantic nor the Paul Desautels conferences would be in their current states of health without the contributions of the Weinbergers. Add to that the years of work done on the International Directory of Micromounters, and the evidence in support of their inclusion in the Hall of Fame is incontrovertible, Steve and Carolyn Weinberger have earned their election to the Micromounters' Hall of Fame.

Author's Note: Congratulations & thank you Steve and Caroline Weinberger for organizing and implementing our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference during the years from 2000-2013.

Past Hall of Famers: Front - Cynthia Payne L. to R. Quintin Wight, Steve & Carolyn Weinberger, Jim Hurlbut, John Ebner, Dr. Dave Rilling

Quintin Wight presenting Dr. Dave Rilling the HoF plaque on behalf of his father, Dr. Carl Rilling

Karen & Michael Pabst, Penn Laird, VA

John Ferrante, PA and Don McAlaren, PA

John Ebner, NJ and Dr. Dave Rilling, PA

Mike Seeds, Lancaster, PA and Jim Hurlbut, Denver, CO

Photos courtesy Kathy Hrechka

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

American Federation Mineralogical Society Show
October 23-25, 2015 Austin, Texas

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

Communication and Involvement Are the Keys to Our Success!

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

From Evelyn Cataldo, ACROY/Chair

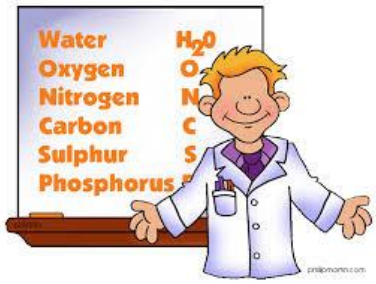
The year is rapidly disappearing and don't have very many rockhounds of the Year for 2014. If your club has not sent in their AFMS Rockhound of the Year for 2014, please do so quickly. Submissions must be received no later than December 31, 2014.

It is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. In 100 words or less, tell us why this person is special to your club. Send the information to your Federation Chairperson who will forward it onward to me for publication in the AFMS newsletter. Plus, I will send you a certificate honoring the person.

Looking forward to hearing from your club. Evelyn Cataldo

MNCA Members, If you have someone to nominate, call Ellery Borow for her address.

Club Rockhound of the Year
Ellery Borow 207-547-3154



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Mark your calendar:
Eastern Federation Mineralogical Society Show & Convention, March 27-29, 2015 in Hickory, NC

Geology Events:

October :

18: Geology Garage Sale of Cynthia Payne's mineral collection of worldwide localities.
Fisher's 14981 Gold Post Ct., Centreville, VA
(park on circle and walk up Pipe Stem Drive to Fisher's garage); 10am - 4pm.
Contact Susan and Ed Fisher, (703) 830-9722.

18-19: Annual Rock Swap & Sale; North Jersey Mineralogical Society; Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant St., Ogdensburg, NJ; 9am - 5pm.

22: MNCA Meeting - "Super Digg" Sterling Hill, New Jersey with presenter, Dave Fryauff

25: Ultraviolation 2014 (Fluorescent minerals) Lower Bucks county, PA; First United Methodist, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA; 9am - 4pm

26: Fall Auction: Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Washington , DC; Catherine J. & Bruce Gaber Collection of minerals, gemstones, jewelry, lapidary rough, books, beads, and fossils.
5500 Sonoma Rd., Bethesda, MD 12 noon - 5pm.

27: NVMC Meeting - "Cabachons, Soup to Nuts" with Mike Smith, Long Branch Nature Center 8pm

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference
April 10 - 11, 2015

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Alexandria, VA
Featured speaker: Robert Rothenburg
Oneonta, New York

Details are posted on our club website:
Tab Events - Conference
www.dcmicrominerals.org