

MNCA Website [dcmicrominerals.org](http://dcmicrominerals.org)  
**The Mineral Mite**



Vol. 47 – No. 7

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

**Meeting: September 24 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.**  
**Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204**

**Program: Photographing Uranium Minerals - Presenter Michael Pabst**

Michael Pabst is a former professor of biochemistry and immunology at the University of Colorado and the University of Tennessee. He has been a member of MNCA for about 5 years, and is now Treasurer of MNCA. Michael writes a monthly article for *The Mineral Mite*. Up to now, his articles have featured uranium minerals from his own collection. In his talk, he will show us better uranium mineral specimens, photographed by better photographers. Although he has been pleasantly surprised by some of his photographs of his own collection, he would like us to see and compare some of the spectacular photographs of uranium minerals available on Mindat [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org). Using rapidly evolving hardware and software technology, the master photographers on Mindat have opened up a new world of beauty.

**Photo of the Month**



**President's Message:**

By: Dave MacLean

Welcome home after a fulfilling summer. I believe we would be interested in summer finds and new perspectives on our hobby.



\* In December we will need to elect officers for 2015. At our September 24 meeting I will ask for members of a nominating committee to recruit candidates for president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

\* Again we have the opportunity to demo micromineralogy at the NVMC show Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23. Please volunteer.

\* Program opportunities include completing the sale of Cynthia Payne's micros as we did at our May and June meetings.

\* A big thank you for the persons who worked many hours to sort and package Cynthia Payne's rocks and helped on "cleaning out her house".

\* We need programs for our September, October, and November meetings.

**Photo of the Month Description**

**Fourmarierite** (red-orange), along with prisms of **Becquerelite** (orange), and sprays of **Uranophane** (yellow), all in a vug in black uraninite: (FOV is 8 mm. Photographed through a stereomicroscope, using Combine ZP to stack 10 pictures.) **Photomicrographer, Michael Pabst.** Article p. 5



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 6/25/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

President Dave MacLean opened the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Twelve members were present initially, but more persons came later, raising the final count to 15 members and 2 guests. The minutes for the previous meeting on 5/28/14 were approved, as printed in the Mineral Mite. The treasurer gave his report, and mentioned that 151 micromount specimens from the Cynthia Payne collection were sold at our previous meeting.



**Old business** -- There are no specifics as yet for an informal meeting at a member's house in July, but the information may go out by e-mail. **New business** -- We should choose a nominating committee for the 2015 club officers at the September meeting. Also, the club needs a new field trip chairman.

**Miscellaneous** -- There was a quantity of giveaway material, including specimens donated by Cynthia Payne, from field trips back in the late 1960s - early 1970s, from such localities as the Belmont quarry, the old Goose Creek quarry (now the Leesburg Plant, Ashburn, VA), the Bull Run quarry, and the Faylor - Middle Creek quarry, Winfield, PA. The business meeting ended at 8:09, p.m.

### Previous Program Reviewed 6/25/14

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

The program for the evening involved passing around flats of micromount specimens from the Cynthia Payne collection, for possible purchase by the attendees (similar to that of the previous month's meeting). We also had a showing of photos, including those taken at our recent conference. Also shown were various items of information that one may find on our club's website.

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference**  
**April 10 - 11, 2015**  
**SpringHill Suites by Marriott Alexandria, VA**

**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](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

\* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) [www.amfed.org](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**No newsletter July/August**



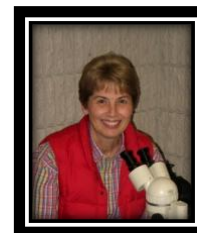
**AFMS Editor's Award**  
**First Place 2011 - Mini Bulletins**



September  
Articles:

\*Michael Pabst

\* Pete Chin



**Congratulations to the following MNCA members:**



**2013 Bulletin Editors Awards Competition  
BEAC - AFMS  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

**Awarded in Tulsa, Oklahoma 7-13-14**

Hosted by the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society,  
Rocky Mountain Federation

**ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES (18 Entries Awarded)**

**Trophy 1st Place - Michael Pabst**

"Fourmarierite"

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area  
(EFMLS)

From: The Mineral Mite, September, 2013

**ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES ADVANCED  
(14 Entries Awarded)**

**Honorable Mention - Mike Seeds**

"Shoobox Adventures – The Hematite Rabbit"

Baltimore Mineral Society (EFMLS)

From: The Conglomerate, September, 2013

**Bulletin Editor's Contest Results**

**SMALL BULLETINS (16 Entries Awarded)**

**Fourth Place - Mike Seeds**

Editor of *The Conglomerate*

Baltimore Mineral Society, Baltimore, MD (EFMLS)

**Sixth Place - Kathy Hrechka,**

Editor of *The Mineral Mite*

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area  
Washington, DC (EFMLS)

**LARGE BULLETINS ( 11 Entries Awarded)**

**Fourth Place - Carolyn Weinberger**

Editor of the *Gem Cutters News*

Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, MD (EFMLS)

Glyndon, MD (EFMLS)



**2013 Bulletin Editors Awards Competition  
BEAC - EFMLS  
Eastern Federation Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies**

**Awarded in Plymouth Meeting, PA  
March 30, 2014**

Hosted by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society &  
Delaware Valley Paleontological Society

**EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES:**

**Trophy - Michael Pabst**

"Bequerelite and Kasolite" The Mineral Mite

**Second Place - Michael Pabst**

"Fourmarierite" The Mineral Mite MNCA

**ORIGINAL NON-TECHNICAL ARTICLES**

**Second Place - Patrick Hayes**

"Archuleta Prospect; Cerro Colorado, Bernalillo  
County, New Mexico" The Mineral Mite MNCA

**Sixth Place - Michael Pabst**

"The A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum"  
The Mineral Mite MNCA

**Ninth Place - David J. Fryauff**

"Slag Minerals from Laurion, Greece"  
The Mineral Mite MNCA

**Honorable Mention - Cynthia Payne**

"Founding and Early Years of the  
Micromineralogist of the National Capital Area"  
The Mineral Mite MNCA

**SMALL BULLETINS:**

**Fourth Place - Mike Seeds**

Editor of *The Conglomerate*

Baltimore Mineral Society, Baltimore, MD

**Sixth Place - Kathy Hrechka**

Editor of *The Mineral Mite*

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area

EFMLS results were reprinted from *The Mineral Mite*, May 2014 issue.

## ***Mineral Mite* Articles Win EFMLS and AFMS Trophies**

Two articles about uranium minerals in *The Mineral Mite* were honored by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). The articles were written by Michael Pabst, Treasurer of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA). The articles describe secondary uranium oxide minerals with photomicrographs and commentary. Michael describes his trip to Tulsa to receive the AFMS award below:

“Thanks to prompting by our *Mineral Mite* Bulletin Editor, Kathy Hrechka, Karen and I decided to make the journey to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies meeting in Tulsa this July. An important motivation was to visit old friends in Memphis on the way. On Friday and Saturday, we enjoyed the show and vendors and talks, as well as some sights of Tulsa. We did not realize that Tulsa had old oil money, and were pleasantly surprised by the wonderful buildings, homes, and museums that we saw there. On Sunday morning we decided to attend the Bulletin Editors Breakfast and Awards ceremony, figuring we should get a better breakfast there than the freebie grub in our cheap motel. I also figured that I had a 100% chance of getting at least 5th Place in the Adult Articles category, based on an email from AFMS to Kathy that said I was one of five finalists.

I was surprised and delighted to find out that I had won First Place! I got a nice plaque and certificate and pin. Because I was actually present, unlike most people who won awards, I was photographed with the AFMS president, Richard Jaeger, and congratulated by all our new friends at the meeting.

I was surprised to find that my winning article was the Fourmarierite article, rather than the article about Becquerelite and Kasolite that had earlier won the first place award at the EFMLS competition.

So, thanks, Kathy, for submitting my articles to the competition. On my own, I would never have thought to enter a competition.

I am glad that I did not know I was competing when I wrote the articles,

or my writing might have gotten stiff and formal. This has been a real treat for me, validating my second career as “amateur mineralogist.”



*Photo Michael & Karen Pabst*

To celebrate these awards, we are reprinting the winning articles here (Part I and Part II on pages 5-6), and Michael has added a new article (Part III). All the articles are about secondary uranium oxides, which are such a beautifully colorful suite of minerals that we hope you will all enjoy seeing them again.

**Part I:** The following article won First Place in the Adult Articles competition at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies AFMS competition in Tulsa this July.



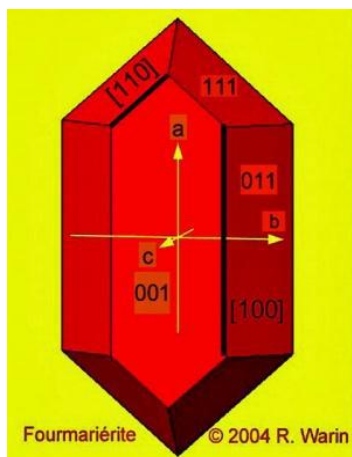
## Fourmarierite

By Michael Pabst  
(Reprinted from 9/2013)

(Our editor, Kathy Hrechka, asked me to coordinate a monthly column featuring a favorite micromineral, with a pretty picture and a short description. Because my collection is limited, I hope that our members will help me by contributing a photo of one of their favorites, or by bring in a favorite for me to photograph. Together we can add some background text, and create a short illustrated article. Let us also continue to provide Kathy with the Photo of the Month.)

Recently, I have been studying secondary uranium minerals, of which Fourmarierite is a beautiful example. Fourmarierite was discovered at the famous uranium mine at Shinkolobwe, which is located in the Katanga Copper Belt of the present Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Belgian Congo or Zaire.

It was discovered and named by Henri Buttgenbach in 1924 to honor Paul Fourmarier (1877-1970), Professor of Geology at the University of Liège, Belgium. The chemical composition of Fourmarierite is:  $Pb(UO_2)_4O_3(OH)_4 \cdot 4H_2O$  It features uranium in a +6 oxidation state, giving it a bright orange color. Lead is also an essential element, which, together with uranium, contributes to the high density and high refractive index. Fourmarierite is orthorhombic, but its exact crystal structure has only recently been clarified. One ideal form is illustrated here:



Complete crystals of this form are rare, judging by the photos on [www.Mindat.org](http://www.Mindat.org) and in the *Photo Atlas of Minerals*. Most specimens show only the top half of the form, so I hope that everyone will enjoy seeing this specimen:



This Fourmarierite crystal is nestled among other secondary uranium minerals, but I can only guess at their identity, probably Uranophane, Becquerelite, and Studtite. The whole assemblage is on a matrix of black uraninite (not visible). (Field of view of the picture is 2.5 mm, so the crystal is about 1 mm wide. This was taken through a stereomicroscope, and I used the image-processing program Combine ZP to stack 6 images to improve depth-of-field.)

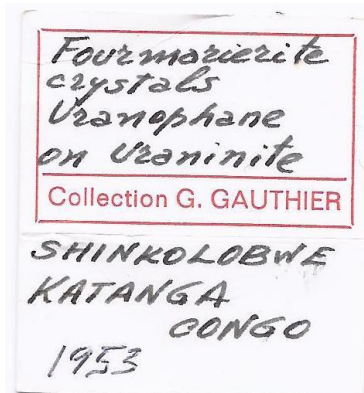


### Fourmarierite photo courtesy of Michael Pabst

Page 6 shows a picture from another specimen shows “half” crystals of Fourmarierite (red-orange), along with prisms of Becquerelite (orange), and sprays of Uranophane (yellow), all in a vug in black uraninite:

(Field of view is 8 mm. Photographed through a stereomicroscope, using CombineZP to stack 10 pictures.)

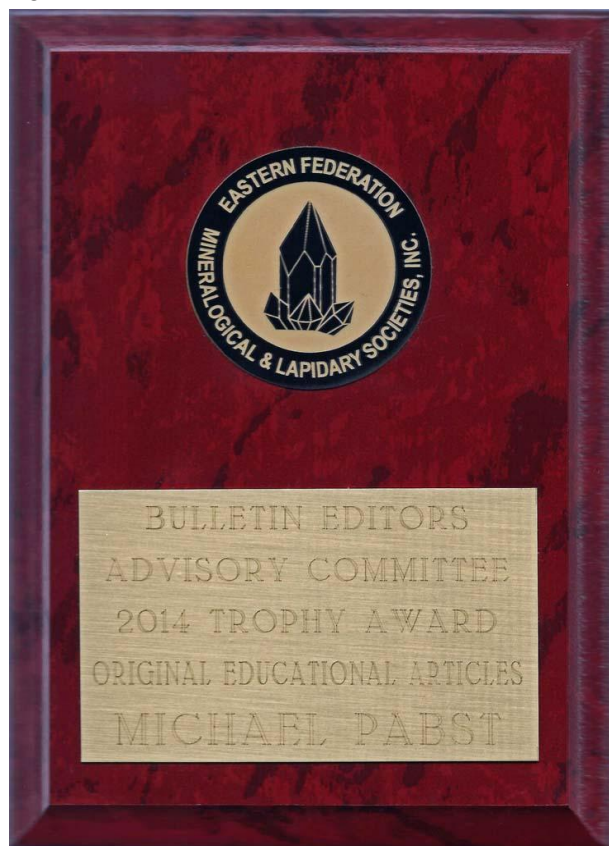
I purchased these specimens at different times many years ago from the Belgian dealer Gilbert Gauthier (1924-2006), who worked at Shinkolobwe as a geologist. He was a wonderful man whose charm helped to offset his prices!





**Fourmarierite** (red-orange), along with prisms of **Becquerelite** (orange), and sprays of **Uranophane** (yellow), all in a vug in black uraninite Shinkolobwe, Katanga, Congo  
**Photomicrography by Michael Pabst**

**Part II:** The following article won the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Trophy Award from the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) in the category of Original Educational Articles.



## Becquerelite & Kasolite

By Michael Pabst

(Reprinted from 11, 2013)

In the September *Mineral Mite*, we saw pictures of Fourmarierite, and one of the pictures included Becquerelite as well. These are both hydrated secondary uranium oxides. Their chemical composition and crystallography are similar:

\*Fourmarierite:  $\text{Pb}(\text{UO}_2)_4\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Red Orthorhombic,  $mm2$  - pyramidal

\*Becquerelite:  $\text{Ca}(\text{UO}_2)_6\text{O}_4(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Orange Orthorhombic,  $mm2$  - pyramidal

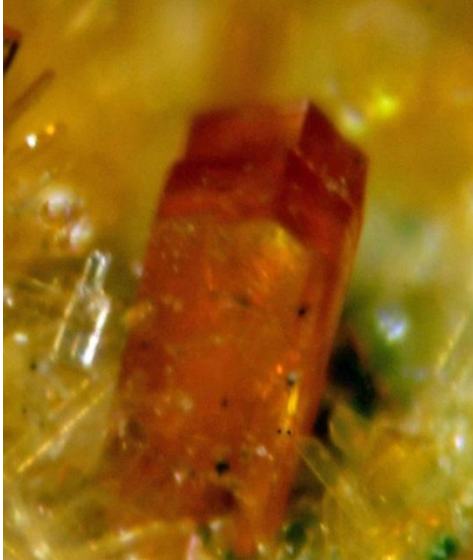
\*Kasolite:  $\text{Pb}(\text{UO}_2)[\text{SiO}_4] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Yellow, Orange Monoclinic,  $2/m$  - prismatic,  $\beta = 104.33^\circ$  Another potential cause for confusion is that Becquerelite commonly contains Pb as an impurity. Nevertheless, good crystals of these two minerals are fairly easy to distinguish, because of the intense red color and unusual pseudo-hexagonal crystal habits of Fourmarierite.

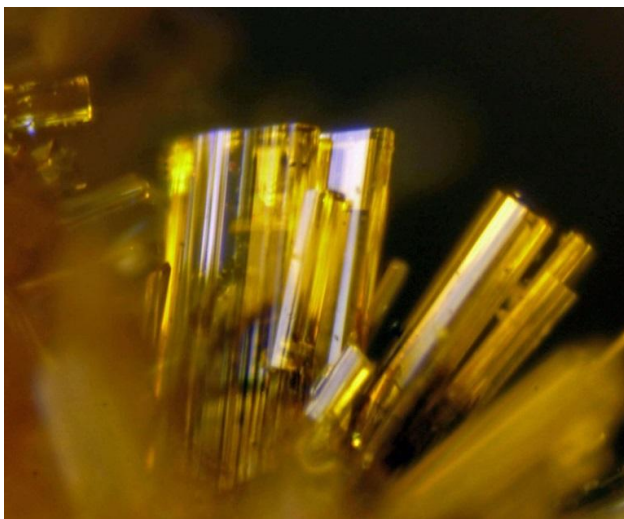
A more likely case for misidentification involves the third mineral in the table, Kasolite. Although Kasolite is a silicate, not an oxide, and Kasolite is monoclinic, rather than orthorhombic, the microcrystals of the three minerals look similar. Looking at tiny crystals through a microscope, it is difficult to distinguish an orthorhombic crystal with an angle  $\beta = 90^\circ$  from a monoclinic crystal with  $\beta = 104.33^\circ$ . None of the other secondary uranium minerals is as red as good Fourmarierite, but less ideal crystals can be golden red or brown. Becquerelite is usually amber-yellow or lemon-yellow, but it can be yellow-orange. Kasolite shows many colors including yellow, orange, reddish orange, amber and brown. So color is not definitive for identification.

The type locality for all three of these uranium minerals is Shinkolobwe, Katanga, D R Congo. Two or three of these minerals can be found together on any given specimen. A host of other secondary uranium minerals may also be present. Thus, with many specimens, the label is probably not complete, even if what is written is accurate. Kasolite is widely distributed. We saw yellow Kasolite from Musonoi, Katanga in the June *Mineral Mite* Photo of the Month, and another Musonoi specimen is pictured here.

When I look at the pictures of Becquerelite on Mindat ([www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org)), some of the specimens look like Kasolite to me. There might be good data to support the identifications given, but I would have been fooled visually. In my specimens from Shinkolobwe, Becquerelite prisms have a flat termination or “roof”, maybe sometimes with bevels, whereas Kasolite prisms always have a peaked “roof”. That doesn’t sound very scientific, but perhaps the pictures will help.



**Kasolite, Shinkolobwe**



**Becquerelite, Shinkolobwe**  
Photomicrographer - Michael Pabst

## Becquerelite and Kasolite



**Kasolite on Torbernite, Musonoi, Katanga, D R Congo**



**Kasolite and Torbernite, Shinkolobwe**

I hope everyone enjoys seeing these secondary uranium minerals, because there are still more to come. The uranium minerals are beautiful specimens that I find hard to put away. There is always something more to be seen, and to guess whether a certain crystal is just another Kasolite, or perhaps something more exotic. All these crystals are no more than one mm long, so they are difficult to photograph as sharp images, even with stacking software. But after a long session photographing these crystals, I feel strangely *Energized!*

## Editor's Note:

I believe Michael Pabst has made an historical contribution for our club, while earning both the AFMS and the EFMLS trophies for his original micromineral articles in the BEAC 2013. Not only are his articles incredibly informative, he manages to master his own photomicrography.

I am grateful to Michael for contributing articles, and to our mineral club federations for providing a means for awarding club members who write articles for our newsletters.

**Congratulations Michael!  
Sincerely, Kathy Hrechka**



**Michael is shown here holding his EFMLS Trophy along with his article on Becquerelite & Kasolite**

**Part III:** The following is a new article describing Michael's recent acquisition of Wölsendorfite, another secondary uranium oxide.

## Wölsendorfite

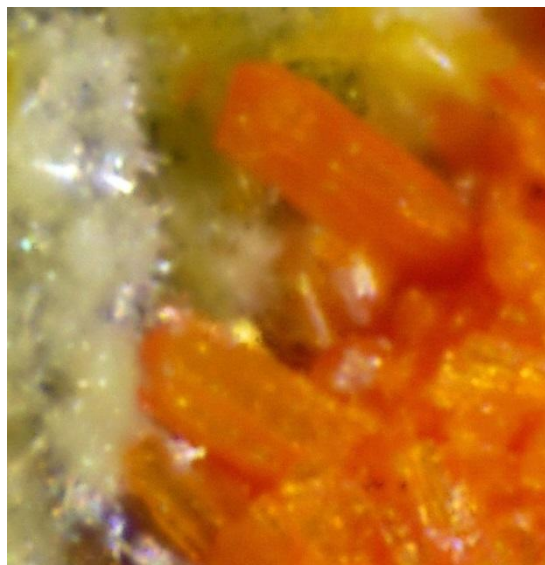
By Michael Pabst

In my earlier article on Billietite and Curite in the November 2013 issue of *The Mineral Mite*, I lamented that I lacked specimens of Wölsendorfite and Masuyite to compare with Fourmarierite. (Please go to [dcmicrominerals.org](http://dcmicrominerals.org) on the web, and get the November issue of *The Mineral Mite* in the archived newsletters to see the pictures and article on Billietite and Curite.) Recently, I have finally obtained a specimen of Wölsendorfite, which I purchased from Excalibur Minerals in Charlottesville. The specimen has a number of good Becquerelite crystals, along with many patches of orange Wölsendorfite. However, distinguishable individual crystals of Wölsendorfite are tiny, making them hard to find and photograph!

Wölsendorfite is a lead uranyl oxide,  $(\text{Pb,Ca})\text{U}_2\text{O}_7 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , first found at the Wölsendorf Mine in the Wölsendorf Fluorite Mining District, Schwandorf, Upper Palatinate, Bavaria, Germany. More recently, the best crystals have come from the Shinkolobwe Mine, Shaba, Katanga, Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire). Wölsendorfite is a close cousin to Fourmarierite,  $\text{Pb}(\text{UO}_2)_4\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and also to Masuyite,  $\text{Pb}(\text{UO}_2)_3\text{O}_3(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , which are also red or orange lead uranyl oxides. The best crystals of Fourmarierite and Masuyite also come from Shinkolobwe, which is their type locality. Although Formarierite is distinctive, I don't think I could distinguish Masuyite and Wölsendorfite visually, based on the pictures I have seen. In many pictures, Masuyite and Wölsendorfite both form pretty red-orange plates, with ragged edges. In contrast, in the specimen shown here, the Wölsendorfite appears to form prismatic crystals.

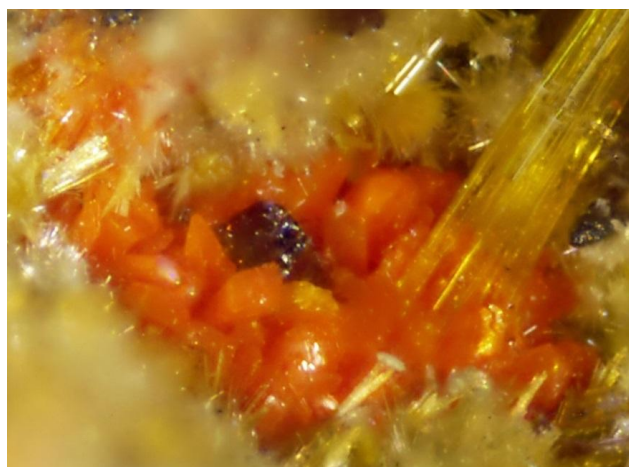


**Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.**

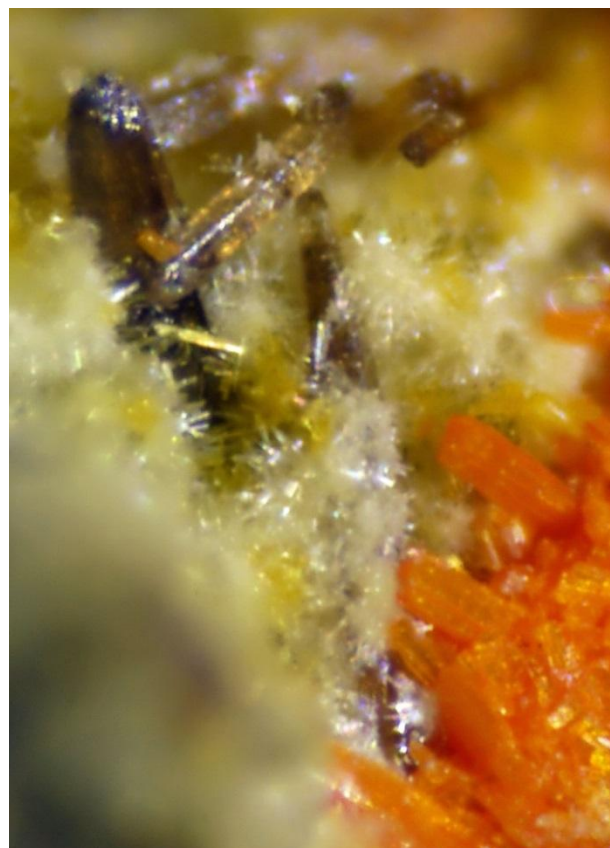


**Wölsendorfite** from Shinkolobwe, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 0.5 mm. Also visible are yellow rods of Becquerelite and yellow needles of Uranophane. The picture above was made from a stack of 20 images taken with a tube and bellows and a 40 mm Luminar lens, and stacked using CombineZP software.

The picture below was made from a stack of 58 images! (Because of the tiny size of the crystals (roughly 0.2 mm), the pictures are not sharply focused, but these pictures are actually clearer and bigger than what I can see through my stereo microscope at 140X.)



**Wölsendorfite** from Shinkolobwe, Katanga, D R Congo. Field of view = 1.6 mm.



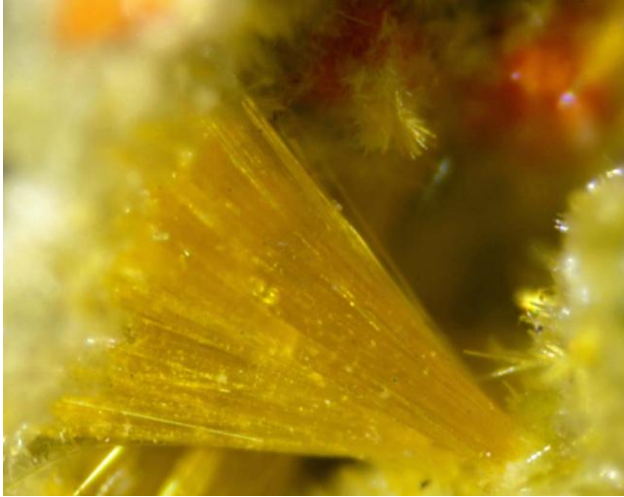
Above is a less magnified view, with field of view = 1 mm. (With less magnification, and with the unfocused stuff on the left as contrast, this image of **Wölsendorfite** appears to be “sharper” than the more magnified image above, but this is an illusion. Both digitally printed photos are from the same camera image, and so have the same actual resolution, limited mainly by diffraction. High-magnification photomicrography is tricky business!)

The specimen also displays a fan of yellow crystals that might be Becquerelite, calcium uranyl oxide,  $\text{Ca}(\text{UO}_2)_6\text{O}_4(\text{OH})_6 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , or possibly something more exotic. The brown crystals on the specimen are an unusual form of Wulfenite, lead molybdate,  $\text{Pb}(\text{MoO}_4)$ . All the Wulfenite crystals have a characteristic rough point at the top, so the roughness is not damage.

**Wulfenite** field of view = 0.5 mm.



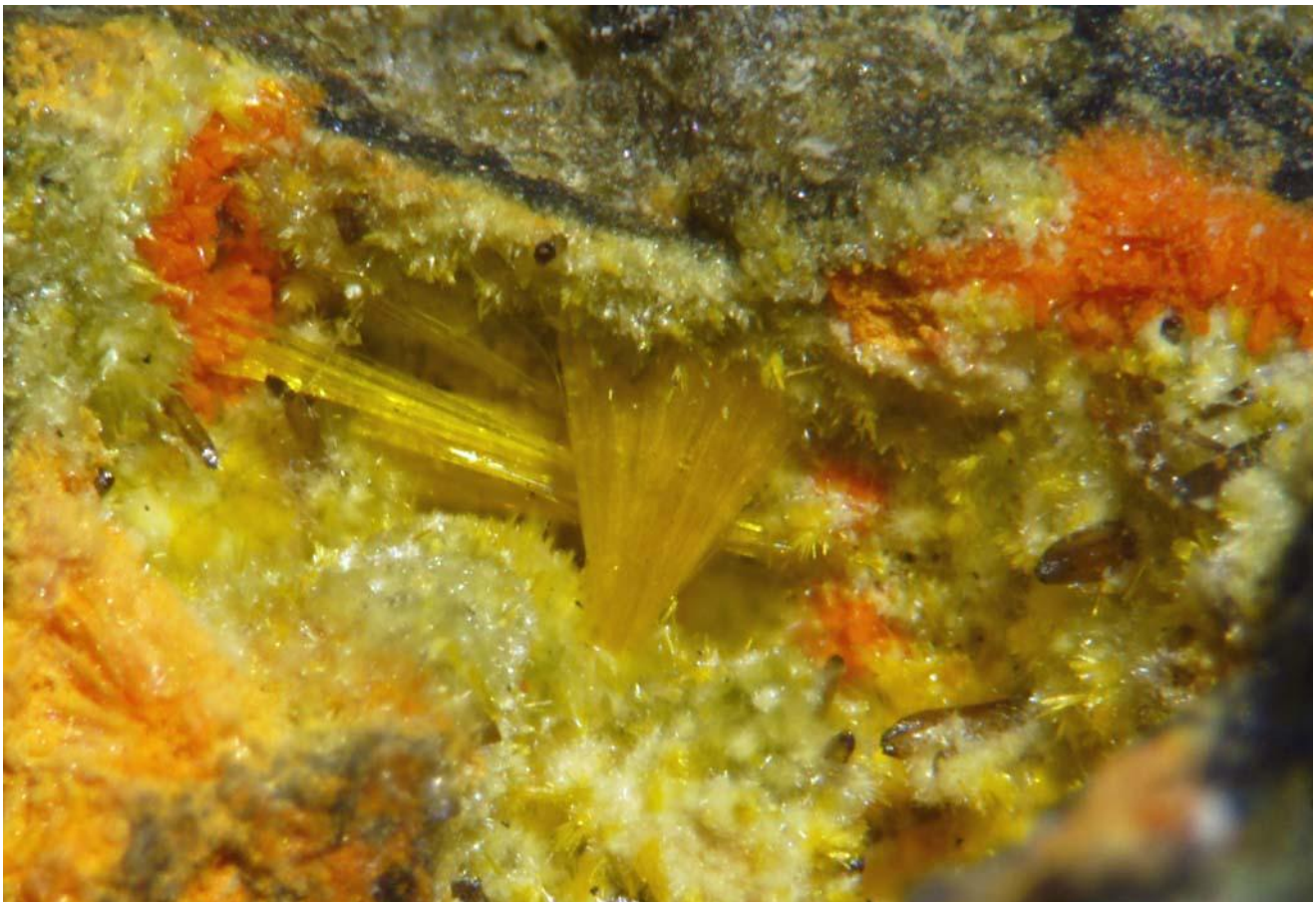
## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**Becquerelite (?)**field of view = 2 mm.

These five photos have all come from a single pocket in the specimen. The pocket is 6 mm across, which equals the field of view in the photograph of the pocket shown below. This picture was taken through the stereomicroscope; 8 images were stacked to get everything in focus.

The pocket illustrated here is only one of many interesting pockets and sites on this specimen. I chose to photograph this pocket, because it looked like it contained distinguishable crystals of Wölsendorfite, along with the fan of Becquerelite and the brown Wulfenite. This specimen has been photographed before by Jeff Weissman, who captured a different view of the specimen showing Becquerelite crystals 30 mm long on a background of granular-looking Wölsendorfite. Jeff included his photograph on the Second Edition of the CD: *Photographic Guide to Minerals*, which can be purchased from Excalibur Minerals. The picture can also be found on [www.mindat.org/photo-159280.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-159280.html), where the specimen has the minID: 21A-XE1. Thanks to Tony Nikischer of Excalibur Minerals ([excaliburmineral.com](http://excaliburmineral.com)) for making this remarkable specimen available to me.



**Desautels Micromount Symposium  
October 10 - 12; Baltimore, MD**

The 58th Annual Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium will be held the weekend of October 10 - 12 at the Friends School, 5114 N Charles St; Baltimore, MD.

Informal talks will be given on Friday evening. On Saturday and Sunday Dr. David Rilling, Steve & Carolyn Weinberger and Jim Hurlbut will be the featured speakers.

The highlight of the Desautels Conference is always the induction of new members into the Micromounters Hall of Fame. This year Dr. Carl Rilling, one of the first people to photograph microminerals and MNCA members Steve and Carolyn Weinberger will be inducted. The ceremony will be on Saturday beginning at 3 pm.

As with our own Atlantic Micromounters Conference, there will be lots of give-away material, and plenty of time for trading and shopping from several dealers who will be present. There will also be both a silent and voice auction.

Those wishing to obtain registration materials should contact Carolyn Weinberger at [<cscrystals2@gmail.com>](mailto:cscrystals2@gmail.com)

*Steve Weinberger on left  
Jim Hurlbut from Denver on right*

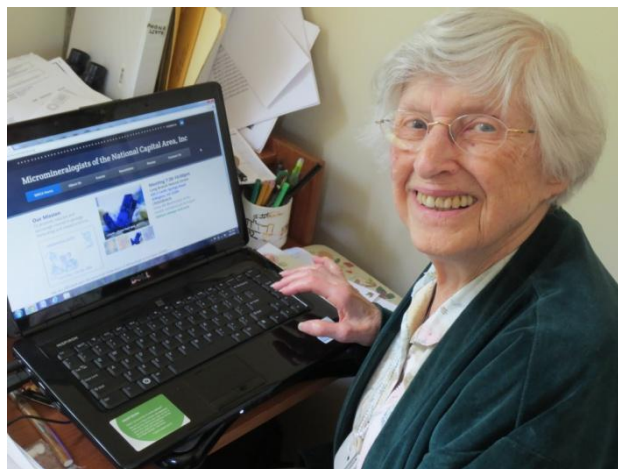


*Photos courtesy Kathy Hrechka*

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

[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://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.



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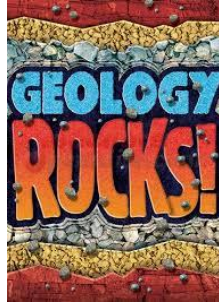
***Geo Word of the Day and its definition:***  
**zhamanshinite** - Glass associated with Zhamanshin crater, Russia, thought to have been produced by melting of local target rocks during an impact event. Cf: impactite.

Geo Word of the Day is brought to you by: Thermo Scientific! Check them out at [thermoscientific.com](http://thermoscientific.com). It is Free.

Go to [www.agiweb.org/word](http://www.agiweb.org/word) to subscribe for free. All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

## Geo Daffinitions

Brought to you by Peter Chin  
- Aloha Mes Amis!



**Agate:** An opening (door) in a fence,

**Archeologist:** A person whose career is in ruins.

**Barium:** What you do with your cloths after You meet a skunk.

**Boule:** A dish that holds fruit on the table.

**Cabochon:** A small French taxi.

**Coral:** A place to keep sea horses.

**Crystal:** A girl's name.

**Crystalline:** Her twin sister.

**Cube:** A square viewed from an angle.

**Detour:** 1. A road opened especially for tourist. 2. A summer road for tourists,

**Diamond:** The hardest stone known to man to get back from his old girlfriend.

**Dust:** What kids substitute for mud when it doesn't rain.

**Earthquake:** The result of Mother Nature not taking Her earth control pills.

**Era:** A mistake.

**Expert:** Someone 50 miles from home.

**Faceting:** A complex way to ruin a good jewel.

**Field Trip:** 1. An Impossible trek to an inaccessible place for non-existent minerals.2, When you fall down outside,

**Filing Cabinet:** System for losing things alphabetical.

**Findings:** Stuff you find,

**Flintknapping:** A sleepy stone.

**Fortification:** 1, Two twentyfications.2. A large gulp of Good whiskey.

**Fossils:** A teen-ager's parents

**Friend:** One who can see the star in your sapphire.

**Garnet:** What you say when a rock drops on your foot.

**Gentleman:** A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in,

**Geode:** A poem of G (often written in hollow verse)

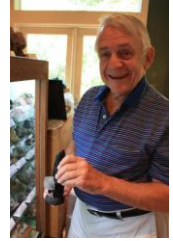
**Geologists:** People who have their faults,

**Grinding Wheel:** The bearing going out on your old truck

**Igneous:** Dumb**Inclusion:** Unwanted third person on a date.

## George Loud: A Lifelong Mineral Collector

(Condensed from *The Hound's Howl* Sept., 2014 Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society Aiken, SC. Article & photos by Shellie T. Newell.)



A consummate storyteller, George regaled us with his experiences of some of the people he's known in a life-time of collecting minerals. His earliest mentor was Charles McPherson from Memphis, TN (1910–2004). George was then age 14. "Memphis is built on a pile of dust blown over from Arkansas' alluvial deposits. Charlie introduced George to the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society," he said. He also became friends with many of the movers and shakers in the American Federation.

From 1997 to 2004, he served as the American Federation Conservation and Legislation Chair, also lobbying in Washington, DC writing a popular monthly column in the *AFMS News*, entitled "Loud & Clear." A life member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, during 1990 he served as the Club's VP and in 1991-1992 he was President. In 1992, NVMC held its first annual gem, mineral, and fossil show. His incentive to get the Club to host a show was that his good friend, Paul Smith (a member of the Micromounters Hall of Fame, now deceased) told him that one had been attempted before, and that it would fail in the effort. George was Show Chair for six or seven years and is very proud that the NVMC Show is still growing.

George's eyes twinkled when he talked about his so-called "Man Cave." Two long aisles were lined on either side with tall, well-lit cabinets replete with amazing specimens, many of which had been self-collected. At the end of the aisles was his "micromounting" station, card catalog, typewriter, and tools. "There are over 9,000 cards in his file that represent nearly everything he has ever collected," George said.



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

(AFMS)  
[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

The 67<sup>th</sup> AFMS Annual Show was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma this past July, hosted by Rocky Mountain Federation and the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society. Incoming Officers for 2014-2015 were sworn in at the AFMS Awards Banquet. The new officers are as follows:

- \*Marion Roberts (California Federation), President
- \*Matthew Charsky (Eastern Federation), Pres.-Elect
- \*Virginia Adian (South Central Federation), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Vice President
- \*J.C. Moore (Midwest Federation), 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Vice President
- \*Jon Spunaugle (Northwest Federation), 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President
- \*Ann Monroe (Southeast Federation), 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Vice President
- \*Judy Beck (Rocky Mountain Federation), 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Vice President



*Photo courtesy of Matt Charsky*

**Back Row** (L to R) - Marion Roberts, President (California Federation), Matt Charsky, President-elect (Eastern Federation), J.C. Moore, 2nd Regional VP (Midwest Federation), Jon Spunaugle, 3rd Regional VP (Northwest Federation), Judy Beck, 5th Regional VP (Rocky Mountain Federation).

**Front Row** (L to R) - Pat LaRue, Treasurer, Anne Cook, Secretary, Ann Monroe, 4th Regional VP (Southeast Federation).

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Mark your calendar:

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



**Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies**

(EFMLS)  
[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)

**Communication and Involvement  
Are the Keys to Our Success!**

### Geology Events:

#### September:

**22: NVMC Meeting** - "Club Member Rocks & Minerals Auction", Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington 7:30 - 10 pm.

**24: MNCA Meeting** - "Photographing Uranium Minerals - Presenter Michael Pabst". Bring your microscope. Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington 7:45-10 pm



**27-28: 50th Annual Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show** hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Rd.; West Friendship, MD 21794 (MD 32 just off I-70).

#### October

**10-12: 58th Annual Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium** at the Friends School, 5114 N Charles St; Baltimore, MD. Registration, contact Carolyn Weinberger at [<cscrystals2@gmail.com>](mailto:cscrystals2@gmail.com)

### 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](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

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Mark your calendar:

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