

MNCA Website www.dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite



Vol. 56 – No. 5 Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists May 2023

May 31 3-5:30pm Kings Park Library of Burke, VA

Program: AMC Final Plans and Barry Remer's Collection

by Jeff Guerber, Vice President

MNCA's May meeting will be on WEDNESDAY MAY 31. NOTE THE DATE 3:00 - 5:30 pm in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room. The temporary date change is due to space availability (or rather lack thereof) this month at the library. We will finalize plans for the AMC at JMU on June 3, then continue with distribution of Barry Remer's collection.



Mystery Micro Mineral of the Month



by Aloha Pete Chin, Honolulu, Hawaii
Clue: locality is San Pablo Mine, Inca de Oro, Chile.
FOV = 1.8 mm. (answer p. 2)

President's Message:

by David Fryauff



Atlantic Micromounters' Conference 2023: We are enormously pleased and fortunate to have joined with the James Madison University Department of Geology and Environmental Science this year, on June 3rd, 2023, for a 1-day symposium.

We will have an in-depth visit to the brand new and richly endowed JMU Mineral Museum and an insider's view of the JMU micromount collection. Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Professor and Curator, will give a talk about the Phil Cosminsky and Fred Keidel micromount collections.

Sincere thanks to our MNCA treasurer, Michael Pabst, and to JMU staff and faculty for making this event possible. I am very much looking forward to this conference, excited to see the new mineral museum, and hoping to see new and familiar faces at this meeting. Please be safe on the highway.

We are not permitted to sell mineral specimens or supplies and cannot run either a silent or open auction for specimens. WE CAN, and MUST bring specimens to give away, give away, GIVE AWAY and trade, trade TRADE!!! Conference details are on page 5.

The Mineral Mite May 2023

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Mystery Micro Mineral of the Month

by Aloha Pete Chin, Honolulu, Hawaii

Molybdofofnacite, green crystals with spray of green acicular malachite crystals. San Pablo Mine, Inca de Oro, Chile. FOV = 1.8 mm.

Previous Meeting Minutes 4.24.2023

by Bob Cooke, secretary



The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area met on April 24, 2023, at the Kings Park Library in Burke, Virginia. President David Fryauff convened the at 4 pm. Other members present were Bob Cooke, Dennis Coskren, Jeff Guerber, Dave Hennessey, Kathy Hrechka, David MacLean, Michael & Karen Pabst, and Tom Tucker. David thanked past presidents David MacLean and Tom Tucker for their service. Minutes of the March 2023 were approved as published in the Mineral Mite.

Michael Pabst gave a Treasurer's report and relayed the latest developments for the AMC trip to James Madison University on Saturday, June 3rd. He will send an email with parking instructions to everyone who is registered for the event. Tom Tucker offered to lead a mineral collecting field trip on Sunday June 4th for anyone interested; possible collecting sites are Stoutameyer Branch, Buck Hill, or Sugar Grove.

Photo on right: Dennis Coskren, Dave MacLean

Kathy mentioned that the hosting fee for the MNCA website will be due in July. The fee amount should be known by the June meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM and distribution of minerals from the Barry Remer collection commenced.

Prior Program Reviewed 4.24.2023

by Bob Cooke

Micromineral Study: We continued the distribution of microminerals from Barry Remer's collection.



Tom Tucker, Dave Fryauff, Karen & Michael Pabst



Nacrite Microminerals: 101

by Kathy Hrechka

Our club meeting was full of surprises, including this nacrite specimen of Dave Hennessey's from the Rockville Quarry in Maryland. These micros appeared after a muriatic acid bath. I found it intriguing. Personally, I restrict my collection to micros which only fit inside the micro box. Dave has shown me what I could be missing by studying his nacrite specimen. I had more fun at the meeting discovering the micros within. Photos are taken with my Samsung 9 cell phone attached to my microscope for this study.



Entire Nacrite, larger than a thumbnail



Nacrite FOV 3mm

Photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka

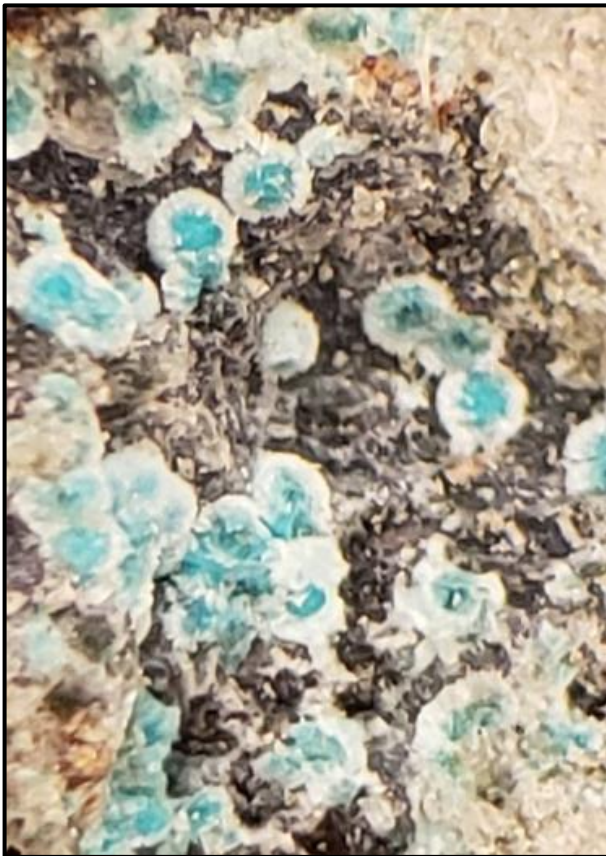


“Mr. DeMille, I’m Ready for my Close-up.”

by Dave Hennessey

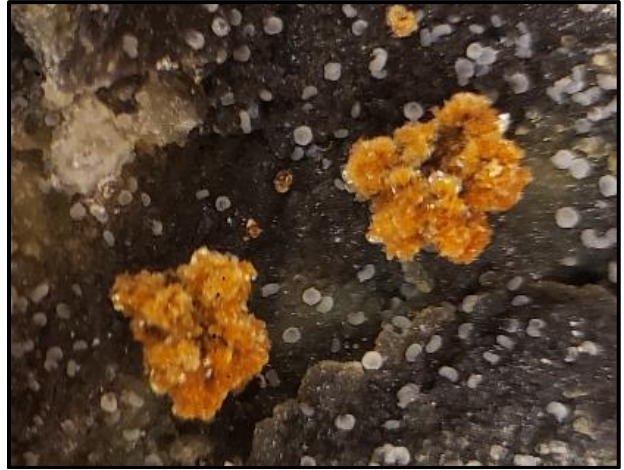
Like Bette Davis in “Sunset Boulevard,” several Hunting Hill Quarry pieces were ready for their close-up at our last MNCA meeting. With Kathy Hrechka playing the part of Mr. Demille, she used her microscope with a new camera mount that held her Samsung 9 cell phone to capture images of these three aspiring micro-mounts. Here’s a little bit of background on these the mounts.

Mcguinnessite (light blue) associated with hydromagnesite. Mcguinnessite is a relatively rare Mg-Cu carbonate, and the Hunting Hill Quarry is one of the few worldwide locations at which the mineral can be found. The pictured piece was a gift, originally collected by former MNCA member, Paul Smith.



Mcguinnessite, Hunting Hill Quarry, MD

Desautelssite (orange) is an even rarer carbonate, found at only 9 localities worldwide according to Mindat. It is, of course, named after the former curator of the Department of Gems and Minerals at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. The pictured piece was also collected by Paul Smith.



Desautelssite, Hunting Hill Quarry, MD

Nacrite (white) on clinozoisite. Nacrite is a polymorph of kaolinite. The identification of this mineral was made by Lance Kearns at JMU. This one was a real stumper, looking for all the world like reticulated cerussite. In fact, the nacrite remained when using muriatic acid to dissolve away the calcite from a seam of clinozoisite. The nacrite is a pseudomorph following the crystal structure of the calcite that it formed with. The calcite dissolved away. The nacrite did not.



*Nacrite, Hunting Hill Quarry, MD
Photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka*

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference Saturday, June 3 - Time: 10:30 – 4pm

by Michael Pabst, Treasurer

For 2023, the 49th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference will be held on Saturday, June 3 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The conference is sponsored by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA). Website: dcmicrominerals.org.

The conference will start at 10:30 am, so that people from the DC area or similar distances can drive to Harrisonburg on Saturday morning without losing much sleep. There are many inexpensive motels in Harrisonburg if you want to arrive on Friday or stay over on Saturday night.

Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Professor and Curator, will give a talk about the Phil Cosminsky and Fred Keidel micromount collections at 11:00, then we will break for lunch. (We will offer guidance on dining.) In the afternoon we will visit the *stunning* James Madison Mineral Museum, mixed with viewing and trading micromounts till about 3:30. For a preview of the JMU museum, look at the article in the *Mineralogical Record*, volume 51, page 703, September-October 2020. There are also some photos and information on the JMU website:

<https://www.jmu.edu/mineralmuseum/index.shtml>.

Because of JMU rules, we cannot have dealers or an auction, but we can trade, and there will be giveaways. There will be no fee for the conference. Please reply to michaeljpabst@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

Harrisonburg is also a treat for friends and family. On Saturday, folks can visit the impressive Virginia Quilt Museum in downtown Harrisonburg:

<https://www.vaquiltmuseum.org>. Also on Saturday, if

you like quilts or chocolate or antiques or jerky or toys and much else, visit the Dayton Market:

<https://www.thedaytonmarket.com>.

The beautiful Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU is near the mineral museum and is open every day from dawn to dusk:

<https://www.jmu.edu/arboretum/index.shtml>.

Free parking for the Atlantic Micromounters Conference on June 3 is available on the JMU campus in regular spaces in lots C12, D3, and R4 near Festival Conference Center (1301 Carrier Dr, Harrisonburg, VA 22807). There is a drop-off loop in front of Festival and elevator service from the top floor to the bottom floor. The Mineral Museum is on the bottom floor.

*You do not need a parking permit or voucher in these lots on June 3.

*Do NOT Park in metered areas, spaces reserved for service or state vehicles, or fire lanes. Only park in accessible spaces if you have a proper permit.

*The up-to-date JMU parking map can be found here:

<https://www.jmu.edu/parking/files/parkingmap.pdf>



Rhodochrosite. Sweet Home Mine, Alma, Colorado. FOV 12 cm. JMU specimen. Photo by Michael Pabst



Turquoise. Lynch Station, Virginia. FOV ~10 cm. JMU specimen. Photo by Michael Pabst.

Iron Arsenates: Parasymplesite, Scorodite, Pharmacosiderite, Schneiderhöhnite

by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

Iron is the next metal whose minerals we will examine. Iron comes just before cobalt and nickel in the Periodic Table of the Elements. We will start by looking at iron arsenates.



Parasymplesite. In recent articles we examined Annabergite, which is nickel arsenate $Ni_3(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$, and Erythrite, which is cobalt arsenate $Co_3(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$. In this article, we examine Parasymplesite, which is the corresponding iron arsenate $Fe^{2+}_3(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$. All three of these minerals are in the Vivianite Group. All are monoclinic $2/m$ – prismatic, with similar chemical and physical properties. The similarities are not surprising because iron, cobalt, and nickel are neighboring elements in the first row of transition metals in the Periodic Table.

Parasymplesite is murky green, sometimes blue, or black. It is soft (2 on Mohs scale), flexible, with perfect cleavage, just like Annabergite and Erythrite. The beta angle for Parasymplesite $\beta = 104.816^\circ$, compared with $\beta = 105.00^\circ$ for Annabergite and $\beta = 105.1116^\circ$ for Erythrite. So very similar beta angles.

There is an apparent difference among these three arsenates that might be subjective, but micromineralogists frequently encounter beautifully crystallized Annabergite and Erythrite, whereas Parasymplesite is uncommon. By contrast, the phosphate analogs in the Vivianite Group include relatively common well-crystallized Vivianite, which is iron phosphate $Fe^{2+}_3(PO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$, but Arupite, which is nickel phosphate $Ni_3(PO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$, and Pakhomovskiyite, which is the corresponding cobalt phosphate $Co_3(PO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$, are extremely rare. Arupite is known only from weathered meteorites. Pakhomovskiyite was discovered in 2006 on the Kola Peninsula in Russia. There is only one photo, which shows a 0.2 mm crystal group, on Mindat, taken by Anatoly Kasatkin: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-189115.html>.

My specimen of Parasymplesite comes from the Ojuela Mine in Durango, Mexico:



Parasymplesite. Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, taken with macro lens + Raynox lens.

As the name suggests, there is a dimorph of Parasymplesite called Symplesite. Parasymplesite is monoclinic, Symplesite is triclinic, specifically triclinic $\bar{1}$ - pinacoidal. Otherwise, these two minerals have the same chemical composition $Fe^{2+}_3(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ and similar physical properties. Here is a photo of Symplesite from Mindat, also from the Ojuela Mine, taken by Elmar Lackner: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-75014.html>. Most people would find it difficult to distinguish Symplesite from Parasymplesite by visual examination. X-ray diffraction would be needed.

Symplesite was named by Johan Breithaupt in 1837 from the Greek “συν” (syn) meaning “with”, and “πλησιαζω” (plisiázo) meaning “approach” because of its relationship with other minerals. Parasymplesite was named by Tei-ichi Ito, Hideo Minato, and Kin-ichi Sakurai in 1954 from the Greek παρα (para) meaning “beyond” for its polymorphic relationship to Symplesite.

There are 180 various iron arsenates listed by Mindat, most containing metals in addition to iron. A close cousin would be Ferrisymplesite $Fe^{3+}_3(AsO_4)_2(OH)_3 \cdot 5H_2O$ which has ferric iron 3+ instead of ferrous iron 2+, which requires a compensating three (OH)⁻ groups for charge balance.

Iron Arsenates continued

Ferrisymplectite is usually brownish yellow, soft, and crystallizes in the monoclinic system (exact space group and parameters remain undefined). Most specimens are ugly, but here are some surprisingly nice but tiny orange crystals from the Uranus Mine in Saxony, Germany, in a photo by Christophe Boutry on Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-836778.html>. These orange crystals were identified only by EDS which provides elemental analysis. To be sure of the identity, I would like to see X-ray diffraction to determine crystal structure.

Scorodite. Scorodite is another iron arsenate $\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{AsO}_4)\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Scorodite is orthorhombic *mmm* – dipyramidal; it can appear pseudo-octahedral. Scorodite forms from oxidation of arsenic ores like Arsenopyrite FeAsS .

Scorodite has a fascinating blue-purple color that sometimes changes with orientation (dichroism). You can see both blue and purple in this specimen photographed by Rob Lavinsky for Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-37823.html>. Or in this photo by Neal Luppescu:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-1037835.html>.

Tsumeb is the best locality for Scorodite crystals that are big enough and dark enough to show the blue-purple dichroism readily. Here is a specimen of Tsumeb Scorodite from my collection:



Scorodite. Tsumeb, Namibia. FOV 8 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 5 images. (my specimen #623).

The next photo is of Scorodite from Tsumeb showing a cluster of smaller crystals:



Scorodite. Tsumeb, Namibia. FOV 3.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 23 images. (#1017)

Scorodite is found in many localities. Here is my specimen from Cornwall in England:



Scorodite. Wheal Muttrell, Gwennap, Cornwall, England. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, stereo microscope, stacking 27 images. (#165)

continued next page

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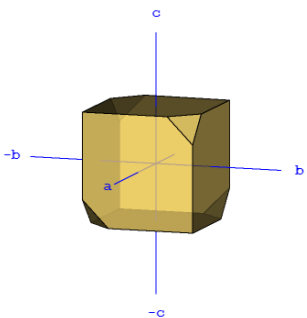
Scorodite from the Clara Mine in Germany:



Scorodite. Clara Mine, Ober-Wolfach, Black Forest, Germany. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 21 images. (#427)

Pharmacosiderite. Adding potassium to iron arsenate gives Pharmacosiderite $KFe^{3+}_4(AsO_4)_3(OH)_4 \cdot 6-7H_2O$. Pharmacosiderite is isometric $\bar{4} 3m$ – hextetrahedral. The crystals often look like cubes with some beveled edges. Unlike Parasymplesite and Symplesite, Pharmacosiderite is brittle, not flexible or cleavable, but it is still soft ($2\frac{1}{2}$ Mohs). Crystals often have adamantine luster. Colors include green, yellow, brown, or reddish. The origin of the name Pharmacosiderite is interesting. The name comes from the Greek φάρμακον "pharmakou" for "poison or drug" due to the arsenic content, and σίδηρος "sideros" for "iron". The type localities are in Cornwall.

Diagram of Pharmacosiderite from Goldschmit via Mindat:



I have some Pharmacosiderite specimens in my collection. The first is from Cornwall:

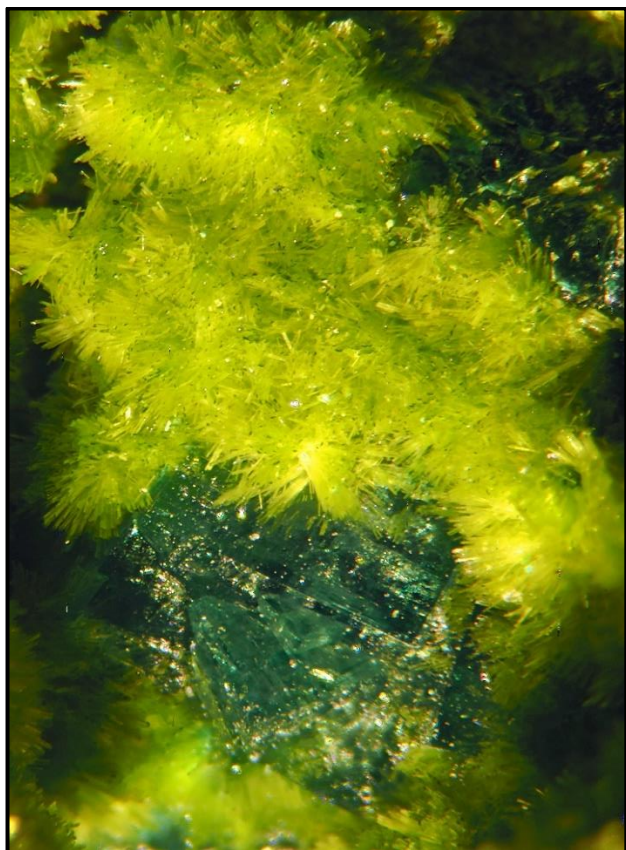


Pharmacosiderite (Green & yellow cubes). Wheal Gorland, St. Day, Cornwall, England. FOV 5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using stereo microscope, stacking 23 images.

Two Pharmacosiderite specimens from Nevada:



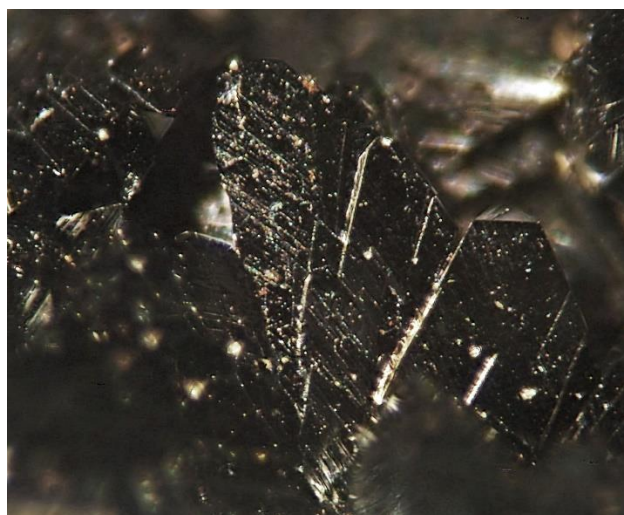
Pharmacosiderite, tetragonal crystals. Northumberland Mine, Nye County, Nevada. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, stacking 8 images. (#634) continued next page



Pharmacosiderite (green cubes) with *Arthurite* (yellow-green needles). Copper Stope, Majuba Hill Mine, Pershing County, Nevada. FOV 4 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, stacking 18 images. (More about *Arthurite* $\text{CuFe}^{3+}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in a later article.) (#1407)

There are many beautiful photos of *Pharmacosiderite* on Mindat. Here is a deep green *Pharmacosiderite* crystal from Morocco, photographed by Jean Pierre Barral: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-646294.html>. Lighter green crystals from Majuba Hill, Nevada, photographed by Frank Ruehlicke: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-1107276.html>. Yellow crystals from Devon, England by Steve Rust: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-870103.html>. Reddish crystal from Minas Gerais, Brazil by Sergio Varvello: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-774547.html>.

Schneiderhöhnite. *Schneiderhöhnite*
 $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{As}^{3+}_5\text{O}_{13}$. Hardness 3. Black or brown black. Triclinic $\bar{1}$ -pinacoidal. Type locality: Tsumeb. Black crystals in a cavity of black crystals are difficult to photograph, but here is my specimen of *Schneiderhöhnite* from Brazil:



Schneiderhöhnite. Urucum claim, Conselheiro Pena, Minas Gerais, Brazil. FOV 2 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, stacking 7 images.

Here is a Mindat photo of *Schneiderhöhnite* by Stephan Wolfsried, who is more skilled in capturing tiny black crystals: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-582471.html>. Some larger crystals of *Schneiderhöhnite* were found at Tsumeb, as shown in this photo by Robert Lavinsky: <https://www.mindat.org/photo-160238.html>.

In the next article, we will look at some iron arsenate minerals that also contain lead, like *Carminite* $\text{PbFe}^{3+}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2$, its monoclinic dimorph *Mawbyite* $\text{PbFe}^{3+}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2$, *Ludlockite* $\text{Pb}_4\text{Fe}^{3+}_4\text{As}^{3+}_{10}\text{O}_{22}$, and *Nealite* $\text{Pb}_4\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{As}^{3+}\text{O}_3)_2\text{Cl}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Then in later installments, we will move on to iron phosphate minerals like *Vivianite* $\text{Fe}^{2+}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and *Ludlamite* $\text{Fe}^{2+}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Smithsonian Unveiled Superb Lion of Merelani Gem: Tsavorite Garnet

by Kathy Hrechka, editor

Sant Director, National Museum of Natural History, Dr. Kirk Johnson, and Dr. Jeffrey Post unveiled the incredible 116.76 carat Tsavorite garnet with the original family, donor, and gem cutter in attendance on April 20, 2023. The event took place in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals at 10:30am.

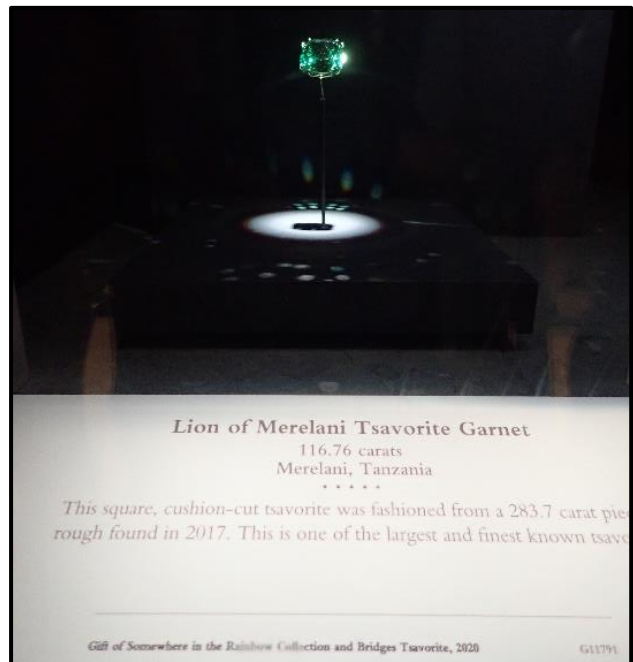
“The Merelani is the world’s largest square-cushion cut tsavorite gem and is more than 100 carats heavier than the National Gem Collection’s current largest tsavorite jewel. The gem was unearthed near Merelani, an area of northern Tanzania and was gifted by Somewhere in the Rainbow Collection and Bridges Tsavorite”. *Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, Curator*



The tsavorite is an intense green variety of grossular garnet. The color is caused by trace amounts of vanadium and chromium. Tsavorite is one of the rarest of all gems, found primarily in a small region that straddled Tanzania and Kenya. It is named for Tsavo East National Park in Kenya, which is near where it was first discovered by famed geologist Campbell Bridges in 1967. The stone is a gift from Bruce Bridges, the CEO of the Bridges Tsavorite mining company that specializes in sustainably excavating vibrant gems in Eastern Africa. The Merelani honors his father Campbell Bridges, who discovered tsavorite in Tanzania in 1967.



Dr. Kirk Johnson and Mrs. Bridges are unveiling the 116.76 carat Merelani Tsavorite Gemstone.



“Lion of Merelani Tsavorite Garnet Tsavorite 116.76 carats from Merelani, Tanzania. This square, cushion-cut tsavorite was fashioned from a 283.7 carat piece of rough found in 2017. This is one of the largest and finest tsavorite gems. Gift of Somewhere in the Rainbow Collection and Bridges Tsavorite, 2020 G11791”. Museum exhibit

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Mrs. Bridges, resting in front of and admiring the new Merelani Tsavorite garnet, while honoring her late husband's gift to the Smithsonian.



Victor Tuzlukov, gem cutter posing with Bridges' family and tsavorite donor.



Victor Tuzlukov, tsavorite gem cutter with donor from Somewhere in the Rainbow, a privately owned gem and jewelry collection. With an emphasis on education, Somewhere in the Rainbow works with gemologists, gallery owners, museums and jewelry designers to preserve the rarity and beauty of the finest colored gems in the world.



Mrs. Bridges is holding her honorary award.



The 283.74 carat crystal rough of tsavorite before it was cut into the Lion of Merelani. Jeff Scovil photo, courtesy of Bridges Tsavorite. Smithsonian

Photo credits, Kathy Hrechka, volunteer NMNH GGM Mineral Gallery. I personally assured Mrs. Bridges that I would feature her new gem to visitors.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

EFMLS Wildacres May 15-21, 2023

Speaker-in-Residence: Helen Serras-Herman - 2023

We are very fortunate to have another fabulous Speaker-in-Residence for the 2023 Wildacres Session: Helen Serras-Herman is an acclaimed gem artist with 40 years of experience in unique gem sculpture and jewelry art. Her award-winning, one-of-a-kind, distinctive artwork has been exhibited world-wide and published in over 300 trade magazines and books.



Classes listed below with instructors:

- *Chainmaille, Jim Hird
- *Faceting, Bernie Emery
- *Gem Tree Art, Linda Boronczyk
- *Intarsia, Chuck Bruce
- *Mineral ID, Mike Wise
- *Silversmithing, Richard Meszler
- *Soapstone Carving Ken Valko
- *Wire Wrapping Jacolyn Campbell

If you have any questions, please contact either John Milligan, Registrar, at jmilligan@stny.rr.com or 607-201-4985 or Mark Kucera, Director, at mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com or 914-423-8360.

Sponsored by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies [The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies \(efmls.org\)](http://www.efmls.org)



Canadian Micro Mineral Association 59th Spring Symposium May 5-7, 2023

by Frank Ruehlicke

The CMMA invites you to attend their 59th Spring Symposium the first weekend of May in Ontario's Niagara Region. The Symposium features a great lineup of presentations, a silent auction, Saturday evening banquet with a live auction, giveaways and more! Register by April 5th to guarantee your spot!

Featured Presenters:

Raymond McDougal, Quinuvica, Peru

Quintin Wight, Microminerals of Mont Saint-Hilaire

Dr. Aaron Lussier, Caging the Devil: Mineralogy and Nuclear Waste

We would love to see MNCA members in person at our Symposium but for those who can't make it, our presentations will be live via Zoom. Registration for the Zoom link will open in early April.

[QUICK LINK TO SYMPOSIUM INFO](#)

Desautels Micromount Symposium 2023 October 6-8, 2023, Baltimore, MD

by Mike Seeds, PhD, conference chair & editor BMS

Hi everyone, You and I belong to a special mineral club. 66 years ago, the Baltimore Mineral Society held the first micromount mineral symposium in the world. For the first time on planet Earth, people gathered to talk about minerals and swap little specimens. Since then, lots of clubs around the world have held their own conferences, but it started with your club. This year our 67th Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium will take place on October 6-8 at the Natural History Society of Maryland on Belair Road.

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Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Don't stop reading. You may not be a micromounter but remember that micromounters are mineral collectors. There will be giveaway tables full of rock from well-known quarries and mines plus some locations you have never heard of. There will be three talks on minerals and collecting independent of the size of the rock. There will be dealers selling specimens of common minerals and rare minerals. Most of all there will be people who love mineral collecting anxious to exchange notes and ideas. Anyone who loves minerals would find a micromount symposium lots of fun. And you don't need a microscope; a 10X loupe will serve you well.

We are still planning the program, but we want to alert you to the dates and the new location. Please mark your calendar, spread the word, and plan to come share the fun. We will have Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction, mineral talks, silent, and voice auctions, sales, giveaway tables, and trading.

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

Note by Kathy Hrechka:

Gratitude to our dear friend, Dr. Mike Seeds emeritus professor of physics and astronomy at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. He is the author of over fifty textbooks, now available for sale on the internet.

Periodic Table

Very radioactive isotopes; nothing left from stars

short-lived radioactive isotopes; nothing left from stars

Big Bang fusion

cosmic ray fission

merging neutron stars?

exploding massive stars

dying low-mass stars

exploding white dwarfs

Dr. Mike Seeds "Universal Star Formations"

Dr. Mike Seeds was a featured speaker at the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 10, 2021. He explained how elements in the periodic table originated within star formations of our universe.

Mineral Talks Live May 3 @ 1pm ET

Speaker: **Les Presmik**

"Les Presmyk retired six years ago as the Principal Mining Engineer for Salt River Project, Arizona's second largest electric utility. He and his wife of 47 years, Paula, are Arizona natives and are both graduates of the University of Arizona. Les has been actively involved in his community of Gilbert, Arizona for over 30 years.

He has explored and collected in a number of localities in Arizona, Missouri and Mexico and provided engineering expertise at the San Francisco mine in Sonora, Mexico, the Brushy Creek mine in Missouri and the Red Cloud mine in Arizona. Les has written numerous articles and co-authored "Collecting Arizona". He has spoken at the Dallas Symposium, the Yale Symposium, and the Northwest Friends of Mineralogy Symposium, along with numerous Arizona and New Mexico Symposiums, the Tucson, Springfield, and Denver Shows, and clubs throughout the United States".



Quartz on Malachite after azurite- Live Oak Mine, Miami, Arizona, USA- 6cm wide. Jeff Scovil photo. Courtesy of Les Presmik.

Register in advance for this webinar:

<http://go.mineraltalkslive.com/register>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link joining the webinar.



MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
STANFORD UNIVERSITY



SMP

Micromount Club Zoom - Australia

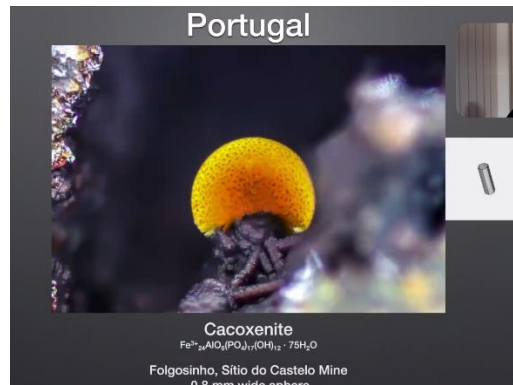
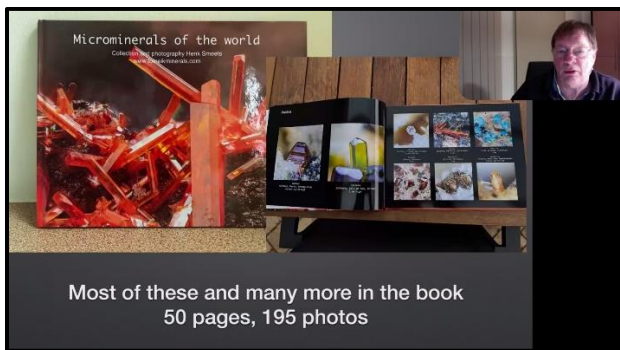
May 17, 2023 @ 4:00 pm ET

Program: Interactive session discussing storage and display of specimens. (Verify time change). (May 17, 2023, 06:00 AM in Canberra, Australia)

April 18 review “Minerals of the World”, presented by Henk Smeets, the Netherlands

Henk is an enthusiastic amateur mineral collector for the past 33 years, His program featured microminerals in his new book Microminerals of the World. Henk’s website: TOMEIK MINERALS

<https://www.tomeikminerals.com/about-me/>



Steve Sorrell resides in Melbourne, Australia and hosts various geology persons of interest at their micromount meeting each month on Zoom. You can sign up for Steve’s programs, while enjoying friendly faces within our geology community around the globe.



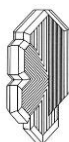
Register for this and other future Zoom sessions here: <https://crocoite.com/index.php/2021/07/the-micromount-club-zoom-sessions/>

steve@sorrellpublications.com

MNCA Editor’s note: thanks to Steve Sorrell from Melbourne, Australia, we have been connecting with new mineral friends around the world for the past three years. I have learned that he is a master photomicrographer, as well as an author of mineral books and a talented artist.

50th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium Review

by Kathy Hrechka, editor



The 50th RMS was the final ending of the Rochester Mineralogical symposium on April 21-23, 2023, on Zoom. Personally, I was in disbelief because I have attended this masterpiece symposium in past years. The RMS was founded specifically as an event intended to bring together enthusiastic collectors, curators, professionals, dealers, and hobbyists in Rochester, NY: a full cross-section of mineral world people gathering over minerals and society, meeting and getting to know each other as new mineral friends.

2023 speakers - programs included:

- *David K. Joyce - The Sudbury Basin: An Unearthly, Earthly, Metal-Rich Anomaly.
- *Jeff Scovil - What's New in Minerals.
- *John Betts, with Mark Jacobson, Raymond McDougall and Jim Nizamoff - What's New in Minerals II.
- *John Rakovan and friends - What's New from New Mexico.
- *Les Presmyk - The History and Minerals of the New Cornelia Mine, Ajo, Arizona.
- *Harold Morit - Chrysoberyl Knoll and Quarry Hill: The Minerals and Quarries of Hadda Connecticut.

Contributed papers & short talks in specimen mineralogy:

- *Lloyd W. Alexander, Alexander U. Falster and William B. Simmons - Ryerson Hill Quarry, Maine: Pegmatite Contamination and Titanium Dioxides.
- *Sarah Hanson - Teaching Mineralogy During Covid: A Much-Needed Assist from the Mineral Collecting Community.
- *Bob Morgan - Positive and Negative Striations on the 021 Pyritohedral Face.
- *Raymond Straw - The Azurite to Malachite Pseudomorph Process.
- *N.K. Tolls - Geochemical Trends of Zoning in Heavy Minerals in the Emmons Pegmatite.
- *Roy E. Starkey - Sir Arthur Russell and his Mineral Collection.
- *Raymond McDougall and Steve Chamberlain - Celebrating 50 Years of the RMS!

Raymond McDougall and Steve Chamberlain
Screenshots by Kathy Hrechka



2023 Gratitude to Raymond McDougall – Chair,
Carl Miller – Registrar,
Sarah Hanson – Technical Session Coordinator,
Chris Emproto and Carolyn McDougall - online
hosts for the eRMS 2023. continued next page


Celebrating 50 Years of the RMS! - A Tribute by

The Mineral Mite May 2023

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE ROCHESTER MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM




Ray McDougall
Steve Chamberlain

Additional Photos: Michael Bainbridge, Al Falster, Dave Joyce, John Rakovan, Jeff Scovil, Elise Skawold, Quintin and Willow Wight



STEVE CHAMBERLAIN, CHAIR

Chair for an incredible 32 years (additional transition years at start)

Founding principles remained fundamental underpinning throughout

Actively sought amazing speakers from around the world

Scope of the RMS and its activities expanded:

- Contributed Papers & Technical Session, abstract reviews and publication, encouragement of student participation and student awards
- What's New in Minerals – a more comprehensive approach – George Robinson & Van King; Jeff Scovil & evolving What's New II
- Micromounters' Playroom – Quintin Wight




ORIGIN AND FOUNDING IDEA

Origin: Bill Pinch and Dave Jensen, conversing at Wildacres in the fall of 1973, conceived as a symposium to connect amateurs and professionals

“The intention was to bring together enthusiastic collectors, curators, dealers and professionals, for the purpose of sharing information.”

- Bill Pinch



STEVE CHAMBERLAIN COLLECTOR

- Built a collection of great scientific value, exclusively New York State
- Incredible knowledge of global minerals and mineralogy, beyond New York State collecting focus (of course, has an encyclopedic knowledge of New York minerals)




Accomplished and dedicated lifetime field collector





BILL PINCH COLLECTOR




- A brilliant and highly influential collector
- Incredible knowledge of rare species and of mineral localities
- Driven, determined and focused collector who loved minerals, always curious and always questioning what he was looking at
- Rapport with curators and mineralogists
- Collected minerals and mineral suites of great scientific value
- Shared his collection and his knowledge, and now both collections are shared widely through Canadian Museum of Nature and Harvard University


50 YEARS OF THE RMS!

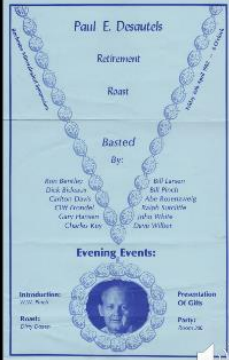
STEVE CHAMBERLAIN, CHAIR

FEATURED SPEAKERS



John White, Paul Desautels, Bill Pinch



Paul E. Desautels
Retirement
Awarded By:
John White, Bill Pinch, Dave Joyce, John Rakovan, Jeff Scovil, Elise Skawold, Quintin Wight, Willow Wight, Charles Kay

Evening Events:
Introduction: 7:00 PM
Party: 7:30 PM
Presentation Of Gifts: 8:00 PM
Party: 8:30 PM


CONTRIBUTED PAPERS IN SPECIMEN MINERALOGY

"The Technical Session"

Abstracts published every year:
RMS Program Notes
Rocks & Minerals

Introduced in RMS 11: through RMS 50, a total of **567** abstracts

Steve Chamberlain, Carl Francis, Sarah Hanson

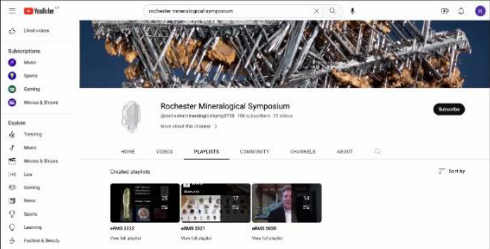


Steve Chamberlain and Carl Francis

Abstract reviews: Bill Pinch, Steve Chamberlain, George Robinson, Van King, Bob King, Carl Francis, Marian Lupulescu, Sarah Hanson, Al Falster

RMS: PRESERVING THE LEGACY: YOUTUBE AND MINDAT


1. YouTube: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium Channel
Search by Clicking "Playlists" – one for each RMS year



WHAT'S NEW IN MINERALS AND LOCALITIES: JEFF SCOVIL PHOTOS!

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Wulfenite, Red Cloud Mine, La Paz Co., Arizona – 3.9 cm | Euclase, La Marina Mine, Muzo, Colombia Crystals to 5 cm | Quartz Sceptre, Petersen Mtn., Washoe, Nevada 25.6 cm | Cummengelite, Boleo Mine, Santa Rosalia, Mexico 1.8 cm | Gold, Colorado Quartz Mine, Mariposa, California – 2.7 cm |
| Unique Minerals | Irv Brown | Jim and Gail Spann | Peter Megaw | Dave Varabioff |

CHAMBERLAIN COLLECTION AT THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM



Gypsum, var. selenite, Edwards Mine, Balmat, St. Lawrence Co., NY – 5.5 cm
Steve Chamberlain photo

DISPLAYS: COLLECTORS




Bill Severance collection, 2019



John Betts Collection, 2019

RMS: LEGACY



- In 2011, the RMS was awarded the Carnegie Mineralogical Award by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History – it honours outstanding contributions in mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education.

DISPLAYS: THE RHODOCHROSITES



Rhodochrosite, N'Chwaning Mine, Northern Cape Province, South Africa – 5.5 cm
Canadian Museum of Nature Specimen (Pinch Collection)
Michael Bainbridge photo

RMS FRIENDS WE'VE LOST



Charlie Key, Carter Rich, Si Frazier, John Medig, Dan Behrson, Marcelle & Charlie Weber, George Feist, Bob Rothenberg, Bill Severance, Bill Smith, Barbara Slay, Renato & Adriana Pagano

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Multi-Club Jamboree @ Sterling Hill on June 10, 2023

by Diana Tasco, Hopatcong, New Jersey

We are planning a multi-club get-together at the Sterling Hill Mine Pavilion on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

We will need RSVP's so that we can prepare accordingly. Please respond to dianatasco@yahoo.com. RSVPs are required. The agenda is as follows: Meet and Greet will begin at 10AM. You can collect on the 2 front Mine Piles (Mine Run Dump and Worldwide Pile), which includes fluorescents and daylight specimens so you should bring your lamp, if you have one, or you could use the light in the shed that is in the middle of the Worldwide Pile and one of the Mine Run Piles- from 10AM-12PM. The poundage fee will be \$2.00 / lb. (try to keep it to a max of 5 lbs.), and there will be no admittance / entry fee aside from the per poundage rate.

12PM Lunch - \$5.00 per person for hot dog, hamburger, and trimmings (tickets will be provided for 1 hotdog & 1 hamburger). Payment can be made as follows: Zelle to dianatasco@yahoo.com, Diana Tasco or Check can be mailed to Diana Tasco, 73 Shore Road, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

Please bring your favorite potluck dish or desert to be shared by all and whatever you like to drink. PLEASE EMAIL dianatasco@yahoo.com WHAT YOU WILL BE BRINGING, SO WE DON'T DOUBLE UP ON SAME ITEMS. It is advised that you bring a chair, as only picnic benches are available.

1PM - Mine Tour for those interested. Tour costs are \$14.00 for adults, \$13.00 for seniors 65+, \$11.00 for children 4-12 years old, free for children under 4 years old. Please rsvp dianatasco@yahoo.com if you will be going on the tour so that the mine has enough tour guides on hand

Doug Francisco (former Sterling Miner) will be doing a high level, mine tour at the Jamboree. He will describe what it was like to work in the mine. This tour is spectacular. Members of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum will not be charged for this tour. Please see the Sterling Hill Mining Museum website if you are interested in becoming a member. sterlinghillminingmuseum.org

You can also bring any specimens from your collections that you would like to swap with other rockhounds.

We are looking forward to spending time with you all and exchanging ideas and stories.

Coskrenite, named for Dennis

by Kathy Hrechka

Dennis Coskren is an American geochemist and mineralogist from Columbia, Maryland. He has the honor of a new mineral named for him.

“Coskrenite-(Ce) * D.R. Peacor, R.C. Rouse, E.J. Essene (1999) Coskrenite-(Ce), (Ce,Nd,La)₂(SO₄)₂(C₂O₄)·8H₂O, a new rare earth oxalate mineral from Alum Cave Bluff, Tennessee. Cream-colored, or pale pink under incandescent light and pale blue under fluorescent light; transparent, vitreous luster, colorless streak, brittle, perfect {001} cleavage. The mineral is associated with epsomite and ‘hair salts’ (principally apjohnite) in soil sheltered by an overhanging steep cliff at Alum Cave Bluff, Tennessee.

The new name is for geologist T. Dennis Coskren (b. 1942) of Columbia, Maryland, whose work was instrumental in the discovery of the mineral. Type samples are in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, and in the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Michigan. J.L.J”.



Coskrenite-(Ce)
Alum Cave Bluff,
Sevier Co., Tennessee,
Mindat photo

Dennis Coskren MNCA
April 24, 2023
USA

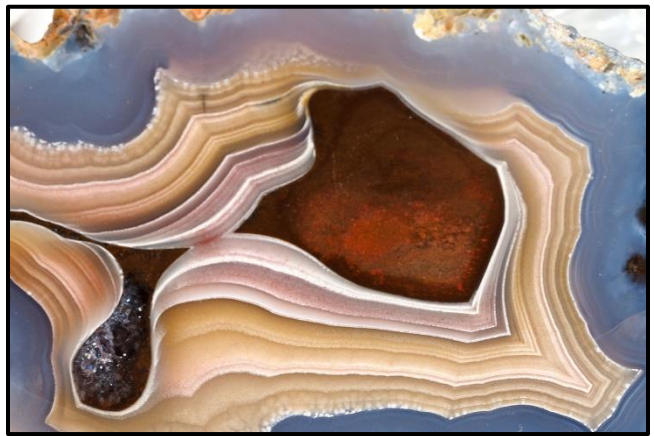
Published in the American Mineralogist, Volume 85, pages 1561–1565, 2000 new Mineral Names

We are honored to have Dennis join us at our micromineral club meetings. Afterall, having a mineral named after oneself is a giant accomplishment.

Geology Through the Camera Lens

by Hillar Ilves, regular MNCA-AMC attendee

The following photos are ones that I took at the Minerals, Gems, and Fossils show this past weekend. I used an Olympus with a 60 mm macro lens and an LED ring light for the much-needed additional illumination. All were handheld, some of them I cropped slightly, and all I edited some. Enjoy!



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

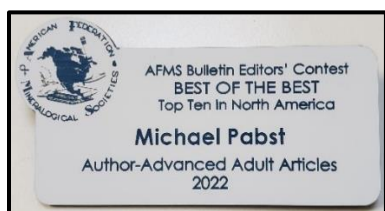
(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

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

2023 Purpose of the AFMS: To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary, and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

Congratulations Michael Pabst!

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Awarded Michael Pabst 9th Place for his article "Cumengeite and Pseudoboleite" which was published in The Mineral Mite 2021. Michael was honored on October 17, 2022, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the location for the AFMS/SCFMS Convention. Michael received a certificate as well as a new name tag.



Celebrating 50 years!
The Rock & Gem magazine is recognized as the
official magazine of the AFMS.
Free archived downloads

[Rock & Gem Magazine Archive : Free
Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet
Archive](#)



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary
Societies

(EFMLS)
<https://efmls.org>

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

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

Local Geology Club Meetings:

May 2023

1: Northern VA Mineral Club NVMC 7:30pm
www.novamineralclub.org

**3: Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia
MSDC 7:30pm Zoom**
www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org

**8: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMSMC**
Meeting 7:30 pm www.glmsmc.com

17: Baltimore Mineral Society BMS meeting
www.baltimoremineralsociety.org

**19: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Washington, DC - GLMS-DC meeting 7 p.m.**
Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut
Ave; Washington, DC. www.glmsdc.org

31: Micromineralogists of the NCA, Inc. MNCA
3-5:30pm Kings Park Library, Burke
www.dcmicrominerals.org

Micromineral Symposia 2023:

May 5-7, 2023 Canadian Micro Mineral Association
59th Spring Symposium Brock University, St.
Catherines, Ontario Canada

June 3, 2023 49th Annual Atlantic Micromount
Symposium James Madison University 10:30am

October 6-8, 2023, 67th Annual Paul Desautels
Memorial Micromount Symposium Baltimore,
Maryland

The Mineral Mite May 2023

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition

allevardite (al-le-ward'-ite) A discredited synonym of *rectorite*.

bazzite (baz'-zite) An azure-blue hexagonal mineral: $\text{Be}_3(\text{Sc},\text{Fe})_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18} \cdot n(\text{Na},\text{H}_2\text{O})$. It is the scandium analogue of beryl, and a member of the *beryl* group.

fredrikssonite (fred'-riks-son-ite") A reddish-brown orthorhombic mineral of the *ludwigite* group: $\text{Mg}_2(\text{Mn}^{3+}, \text{Fe}^{3+})\text{BO}_5$.

octahedrite [mineral] A syn. of *anatase*. The term is a misnomer because anatase crystallizes in tetragonal dipyramids and not in octahedrons.

turrelite (tur'-re-lite) An asphaltic shale found in Texas.

All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

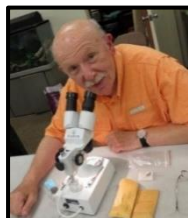
GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by: EnviroTech! envirotechonline.com.

Barry Remer update. Please visit him.

by Kathy Hrechka

We learned that Barry is now bedridden, and happy to converse with us. We so love Barry and remain his family within our geology community. Please visit him or send a card to brighten his day. Sincerely, Kathy

Barry Remer
Potomac Place
3236 Locker Street
Falls Church, VA 22042
Potomac Place phone
571-378-0295



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area
www.dcmicrominerals.org

We are temporarily meeting at Kings Park Library in Burke, 3-5:30pm (forth Monday) until we locate a permanent meeting place.

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

President: David Fryauff
Vice President: Jeff Guerber
Secretary: Bob Cooke
Treasurer: Michael Pabst
Editor/Historian: Kathy Hrechka
Website: Kathy Hrechka
AMC Conference: open

The society is a member of:

- * Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) www.efmls.org
- * American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues 2023
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family) donations
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 by 5th.
No newsletter July/August

Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame – 2018 EFMLS Trophy 2021 Small bulletins

Newsletter inputs:

- * David Fryauff
- * Jeff Guerber
- * Michael Pabst
- * Bob Cooke
- * Kathy Hrechka
- * Pete Chin
- * Dave Hennessey
- * Hillar Ilves

