

# The Mineral Mite

Vol. 46 – No. 1

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogist January 2013

**Meeting: January 23 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

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

## **Program: Labeling Micro Specimens A Lesson Learned from a "Hall of Fame"-er**

By: Tom Tucker

We will explore the Dunning collection. I've a very short commentary and "show and tell" using material from the Dunning collection of specimens from a Micromounter Hall of Fame member. The specimens are nicely identified on the top, which is easily exchanged with the wrong bottom. The bottom is identified with a catalog number, but where is the catalog? Lessons learned!!

**Join us for dinner at Five Guys,  
4626 King Street, before the meeting.**

## **"Photo of the Month"**



**Diamond** 13.58 carats. Hexagonally twinned, hexagonal pyramid crystal termination. Locality - Republic of Guinea. Owner Stephen Bradstreet

<http://www.mindat.org/forum.php?read.59.280507.281259>

## **President's Message:**

By: Dave MacLean

I wish all of us a happy and productive New Year. I ask that each of us remember and act to help persons less fortunate than ourselves.



I continue to be amazed at the breadth of knowledge and talent among us. I will not name names or specific accomplishments because I fear I would leave somebody out. Among we have a wide knowledge of minerals, mineral hunting experiences, specimen preparation and enhancement, mounting techniques, slide preparation, networking and collaborating with others in our field, creating attractive presentations, and interests and dedication to promoting our hobby. I stand in awe.

We have the Dunning collection to sort for micros to be included in the conference auction, to sell at our 3-4 May conference and at our meetings, and perhaps some to donate to the kids. Tom Tucker will bring in the Taylor collection on 23 January. We as a group must decide to sell it in bulk (Tom made an offer) as-is or sort, and make the labels user friendly. A more extensive program for Wed 23 January has yet to be assembled.

**A reminder that the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference is Friday evening, and Saturday all day May 3-4 at the Congressional School in Falls Church, VA.**

President's Message continued on page 2.

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### President's Message continued.

If anybody can recommend a favorite clean, well serviced motel in the Falls Church or Springfield area, please let me or Carolyn and Steve Weinberger know. **There is still time to send attractive micros for the auction to Carolyn and Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071.**

MNCA depends on willing hands to do the club work. We need a club Vice President. The VP is supposed to arrange meeting programs. Any volunteers? I need your suggestions and contacts for some speakers or other meeting programs.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 12/17/12

By: George Reimherr

President Dave MacLean opened the brief business meeting at 8:15 p.m. This was a joint meeting/holiday party with the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. About 31 persons were present, including 10 members of the MNCA. Approval of the minutes for the previous meeting on October 28, 2012 should take place at our January, 2013 meeting. There was no treasurer's report. The only business considered was the election of club officers for 2013. The slate of officers presented in the previous newsletter was approved. The vice present position remained open. The business meeting concluded at 8:17 p.m.

### Previous Program Reviewed 12/17/12

By George Reimherr

The evening was a joint meeting/holiday party with the Northern Virginia Mineral Club.



**Club members enjoying Holiday Cheer in 2012**  
Sue Marcus President, NVMC  
Dave MacLean, President MNCA  
Mineral Crystal Tree designed by Cynthia Payne  
Photos by Kathy Hrechka

**Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area Meeting:** The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.  
(Except December) Long Branch Nature Center,  
625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington VA 22204

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

President: Dave MacLean, [dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com](mailto:dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com)  
Vice President: vacant  
Secretary: George Reimherr, [greim@cox.net](mailto:greim@cox.net)  
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Editor: Kathy Hrechka, [kshrechka@msn.com](mailto: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 2013 are due. \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) Payable to MNCA Michael Pabst 270 Rachel Drive Penn Laird, VA 22846**



### Editors' Notes: Kathy & Julia Hrechka

Each month we will feature a club member's original article. Also, if you enjoy a particular article in an electronic form, forward it to us to be included in the next Mineral Mite. Photos are great too.

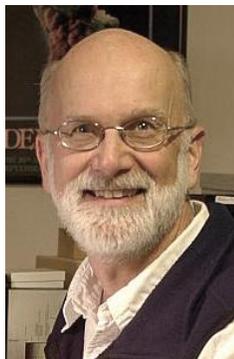
**"Where in the World are your Editors?"**  
Mall of America 12/12  
**Club Article Deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.**  
**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15<sup>th</sup>.**



## Atlantic Micromounters' Conference Falls Church, VA May 3-4, 2013

By: Steve Weinberger, Conference Chair

I'm very pleased to announce that Julian Gray will be the featured speaker at our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on May 3 and 4. Julian is the curator of the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. He also helps organize and moderate the annual Mineralogical Symposium at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show each year and now organizes the Micromount Symposium at the Tellus Museum. Julian is a dynamic speaker and I know that his talks will be both informative and enjoyable.



The information packet will be coming out in February listing hotels in the area, directions, and further details concerning the conference. The Congressional Schools (3229 Sleepy Hollow Rd; Falls Church, VA) is a new location for us, much closer to our meeting place, so I'm hoping that we can increase participation from our members living in the Washington-Northern Virginia area. Since this will be a Friday evening and Saturday conference, your plans for Sunday will not be affected. Hours on Friday will be approximately 7:30 – 10 pm and Saturday from 9 am until 8:30 or 9 pm.

Cynthia Payne enjoying new micros.

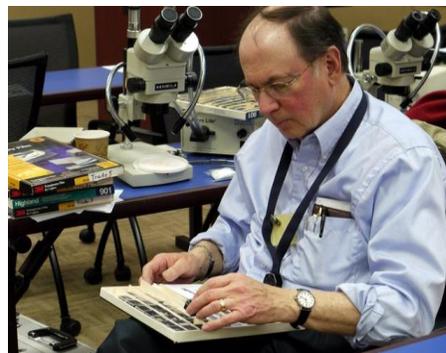


Photography by Hillar Ilves West Friendship, MD

We still need more micro-minerals for our auction. This auction helps to offset the costs of the conference in order to help keep registration fees to a minimum. Please look through your collection, and if you have an extra example of the rare, the beautiful, the photogenic, or the unusual, please send it to me by March 1 so that I can photograph it and put it in the auction. **Send the mineral(s) to me at P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071. We give credit for your donation, but if you wish to remain anonymous, your request will be honored.**



Steve,  
MNCA  
Conference  
Chair



JimKostka



**Field Trip - Feb. 23 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Mineralogy Laboratories and Museum  
at James Madison University**

By :Tom Tucker

Dr. Lance Kearns has again invited MSDC, along with the MNCA Micromounters and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club to visit the mineralogy labs and the fabulous mineral museum at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. We'll "pass the hat" so everyone will have an opportunity to make a small donation to the mineralogy department for the furtherance of their activities and acquisitions, and to pay for the hot coffee and breakfast buns or donuts that Lance will have awaiting our arrival.

The Museum alone is worthy of a trip to Harrisonburg, being the finest collection of minerals in the entire State. There are a dozen or so large wall cabinets filled with minerals from around the world, but with an obvious emphasis on Virginia specimens, like the turquoise from Lynch Station, or apophyllite from Centreville or aragonite from Buchanan. After your visit I'm sure you will have selected your own favorites. There is also a small room with a stunning fluorescent mineral display.

I've asked Lance to take a few moments in the morning to explain to our group the main attributes of each identification method - size of specimen required, destructive, non-destructive, information gained, etc. Lance will be available to identify those unknown specimens you have accumulated over the years. I'm sure he will demonstrate the use of the x-ray diffractometer for crystal structure determinations, and the Ramen spectrometer. The lab has enough stereo microscopes for all those interested to examine their specimens, or perhaps those that others have brought to share on a "freebie" table. Bring anything you have to share.

There will be various mineral specimens in all size ranges from micro to cabinet sized, and probably a few books, available for purchase at unusually reasonable prices or free will donations - acquired from various donations to the labs. Arrive early for the best selections. Please remember, these aren't free specimens, make your donations reasonable.



We will probably go out for pizza at lunch, and return in the afternoon to visit the "micro probe" and scanning electron microscope laboratory, on the other side of the campus. We might use it to determine the chemical make-up of our unknowns, or to photograph close-up the minute crystals at hand.

The mineralogy labs are in the Geology Department which is in Memorial Hall (the former Harrisonburg High School building ), on South High Street. For a map of the campus go to the University website: [www.jmu.edu](http://www.jmu.edu), and at the upper right corner request "directions/map". On the index map, the Memorial Area is an inset at the upper right. Click the small map, and a detailed area map will appear.

**Driving directions:** It takes approximately two and a quarter hours to reach JMU from the DC Beltway. From the Beltway, go west on I-66 approximately 65 miles to its intersection with I-81. Take the left fork, and go south on I- 81 approximately 54 miles to Harrisonburg. Take Exit 245, Port Republic Road, and go right about a mile to High Street. Turn right, and proceed north about a half mile to a light at Cantrell Avenue. Memorial Hall will be to the left, with abundant parking. Being a weekend, parking passes will not be needed, but if you do have a problem, Lance can probably take care of it. Inside Memorial Hall just follow the signs to the Geology Department. It's easy to get LOST!!

If you plan to attend please let me know the number in your party, so that we can let Lance know how many to expect for coffee and buns.

**Email:** [threedogtom@earthlink.net](mailto:threedogtom@earthlink.net)

**Phone:** 540-347-9098. See you there, Tom

If you would like to extend the weekend to include a field trip on Sunday to collect micro-minerals at various syenite localities about 15 miles south of Harrisonburg, or to Sugar Grove, West Virginia (about 40 miles) let me know, and we will do it.

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

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



Eastern Federation of  
Mineralogical and  
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)  
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls>

**AFMS/ Southeastern Federation Show**  
**September 20-22, 2013**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**

## MINERAL NOTES & NEWS



MINERALS

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LAPIDARY

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GEMOLOGY

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GEOLOGY

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FOSSILS

**AUGUST**  
\*  
**1950**

OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
AND  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Below is the text from an article that appeared in the **1950** American Federation issue. It describes the history of the AFMS logo that appears on this issue.

Mary Elizabeth Burwell, 960 Grant, Denver, Colorado, was voted the winner in the national insignia contest sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. So many excellent drawings were submitted from all parts of the country that the final decision had to be carried over to the meeting of the Delegates at the Milwaukee convention. Miss Burwell is a member of the Colorado Mineral Society and designer of its emblem. Her latest drawing was judged as best showing the scope and purposes of the Federation.

The judges were Mrs. Dorothy Craig, California Federation; Mrs. Verah Landon, Northwest Federation; and Chester R. Howard, Rocky Mountain Federation. The Midwest Federation was not represented because it acted as host to the convention. Prof. Richard M. Pearl managed the contest and Herbert F. Grand-Girard handled the publicity.

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

### Geology Events:

By Matt Charsky

#### February

**16:** 23rd Annual Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the So. Maryland Rock & Mineral Club. The Show Place, Marlboro, MD.

#### March:

**2 - 3:** 50th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, Newark, DE.

**23-24:** 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, Sayre, PA.

#### June:

**1 - 2:** **EFMLS Convention & Show hosted by the Island Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Plainview, NY.**

**EFMLS Meeting; Friday, May 31.**



### **MNCA Weather alert:** **SNOW CONTINGENCY**

If schools in Arlington County are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of our scheduled meeting, we will have no meeting.

**Call the NMCA President or a Board Member**

