

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 46 – No. 4

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists April 2013

Meeting: April 24 Time: 7:45 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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

Program: Tucson Gem & Mineral Show 2013 "Fluorite"

Presenter - Michael Pabst



For 2013, the show theme was Fluorite. There were spectacular fluorites for sale, or on display by various collectors and museums. Also this year there was an amazing display of minerals from China at the University of Arizona and at the official show. Just about every classic mineral from elsewhere in the world can be matched by an equivalent specimen from China. You will have to see the pictures to believe.

Continued on page 2

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

Photo of the Month



Sphalerite - Standard Slag Quarry, Adams Co., Ohio
Photomicrographer - George Reimherr

President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean



In only 18 days we can enjoy our conference so well organized by Carolyn and Steve. Julian Grey will be our speaker on Friday evening and on Saturday 3-4 May at the Congressional School in Falls Church. Please plan to come. Please send in your registration ASAP. We will offer lunch ingredients for us to create our own individualized lunches on Saturday 4 May.

We may have a few students and faculty from both the Congressional School and St. Stephens and Agnes Schools. Please bring an extra scope or loupe for our guests to use and vuggy rocks or rocks with crystalline minerals for our freebie table or simply to trade or give away. Micros for the auction at either the BMS micro conference in September 2013 or our conference in Spring 2014 are welcome.

Continued on page 2.

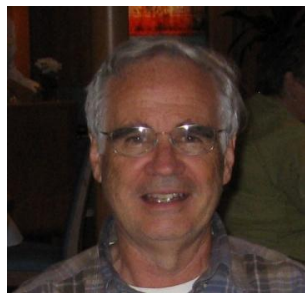
**40th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference May 3-4, 2013
Congressional School, Falls Church
Register with Steve Weinberger**

Sphalerite was photographed during the September 1994 Wildacres workshop session. The course was on photomicrography of microminerals, with Paul Smith as instructor. Maximum dimension across (bottom) is 5/16 inch.

Program: Tucson Mineral Show 3013

Continued from page 1. By: Michael Pabst

In recent years, we first visit the Westward Look show, where the high-end dealers display breathtaking specimens for breathtaking prices.



Karen and I have been visiting the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

whenever we could over the last 40 years. One of our motivations is to escape the cold and snow during the second week of February for the green grass and orange trees of Tucson. Real Mexican and Southwestern food is also irresistible. The Sonoran Desert that surrounds Tucson is like visiting an alien planet—endlessly fascinating. And usually we manage to bring home a half dozen or so mineralogical souvenirs.

Occasionally, I have found something I could afford, although not this year. Then we take a few days to visit the hotel room displays, and pick up a few goodies; this year a clear blue Kyanite and a red Variscite. Finally, at the end of the week, we go to the official Tucson Gem and Mineral Show at the Tucson Convention Center to spend whatever money we have left. This time we found a Cornetite from Chile.

However, there is one conspicuous void: the Chinese market does not yet supply micromounts! We must consider if we can do anything to fix this problem.

Biography: Michael Pabst is a retired professor of biochemistry, who taught at the University of Colorado in Denver, and at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. His research centered upon improving innate resistance to infection. He has collected microminerals for 40 years, with the support of his wife Karen.



President's Message:

Continued from page 1. By: Dave MacLean

We need help to lay extension cords, move tables, test AV equipment etc at late PM Friday 3 May. We will need a couple of hand trucks to move heavy items up the ramp on Friday and down on Saturday. please let me know that you will help. Many hands make light work.

Steve told me that MNCA must take on the implementation of all local arrangements for our 2014 conference including such items as AV, space setup and take down, cleanup, refreshments, finding suitable local motels and restaurants. Steve said he would recruit the speaker and mount and photograph the minerals for the auction.

I will meet with Carolyn and Steve either at the conference or shortly thereafter to obtain a detailed list of what tasks our club must do and what they will do. We will discuss these tasks at our 22 May meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 3/20/13

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

President Dave MacLean opened the business meeting at 7:50 p.m. Eleven members were present. Past president Cynthia Payne was present and was recognized. The minutes of the February 27, 2013 meeting were approved, as printed in the Mineral Mite. The treasurer gave his report.

Old business -- Participation by club members at the Gaithersburg, MD mineral show, March 16 and 17, 2013, was discussed, which included demonstrating micromounting, and in helping out in other activities necessary to having a successful show.

New business -- The club will have micromount specimens, etc., for sale at our conference on May 3 and 4, 2013. Members discussed the pricing of the specimens, and who will volunteer to help with the selling. Steve

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Previous Meeting Minutes 3/20/13

Continued By George Reimherr, Secretary

Weinburger will be in charge of this year's conference, but this will be his last year to run the conference. Steve offered to continue doing the mineral photography and helping us get speakers for the 2014 conference. The business meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.

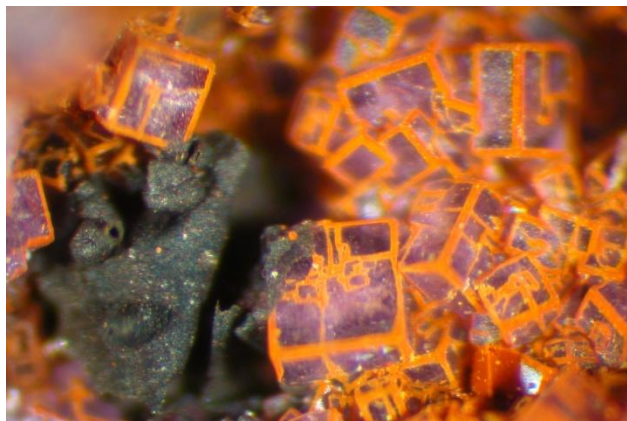
Previous Program Reviewed 3/20/13

The program was viewing a DVD titled "The Adelaide Mine" - which showed mining of crocoite specimens in the Dundas region of western Tasmania.

Traveler Pat Haynes - Red Cloud Mine

Last month Pat was in New Mexico. He stopped at a few mines, including the Red Cloud Fluorite and Copper Mines in the Gallinas Mountains, Lincoln Co., NM. The fluorite mine has fine-grained fluorite that hosts bastnaesite-Ce xls. Orange clay likes to coat or fill any cavities, and the fluorite xls are always small. Sometimes the clay will preferentially coat edges of the xls. The ones in the image are probably 0.2-0.4 mm in size.

Fluorite hosting bastnaesite-Ce xls.



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area

Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.
(Except Easter & 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

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: George Reimherr, greim@cox.net

Treasurer: Michael Pabst Michaeljpabst@yahoo.com

Editor: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com

The society is a member of:

* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS) www.amfed.org/efmls

* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org

2013 Dues are Due

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2013

\$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?"



**Mineral Museum
JMU: Choices
College
Acceptance Day
April 15 for
Julia.**



**Club Article Deadline is 10th of each month.
The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 15th.**

New Mineral at JMU: Smithsonite The Lost World of James Smithson

By Kathy Hrechka

James Smithson (ca. 1765–1829), the founding donor of the Smithsonian Institution, was an English chemist and mineralogist.



James was the illegitimate son of Hugh Smithson, the first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth Hungerford Keate Macie, a wealthy widow who was a cousin of the Duchess of Northumberland. His exact birth date remains unknown because he was born in secret in Paris, where his mother had gone to hide her pregnancy. In his youth, his name was James Lewis Macie, but in 1801, after his parents died, he took his father's last name of Smithson.

Smithson was interested in the chemistry of volcanoes and the fundamental nature of electricity. He published an analysis of the mineral calamine, critical in the manufacture of brass, which led to the mineral being named smithsonite in his honor.

Toward the end of his life, under a clause in his will, he left his fortune (\$500K) to the United States, a place he had never visited. He wanted to found "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men" in Washington, DC, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution.

Smithson died in Genoa, Italy, on June 27, 1829, and was interred nearby. In 1904, Smithsonian Regent Alexander Graham Bell brought Smithson's remains to the United States to rest at the institution created by his bequest.

Although Smithson's papers and his vast mineral collection were all destroyed by fire in 1865, the story of his life and work has been largely recovered in a recent biography by Heather Ewing, *The Lost World of James Smithson: Science, Revolution, and the Birth of the Smithsonian*. Smithsonite (zinc carbonate, $ZnCO_3$), named for the James Smithson.

**JMU Smithsonite,
Chihuahua, Mexico**



Our Atlantic Micromounters Conference May 3-4, 2013

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



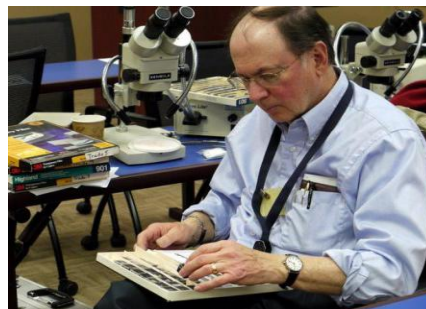
Julian studied geology at Georgia State University where he received his BS and MS degrees in geology. He worked with the Denver Office of the USGS in the early 1980's. He then returned to Georgia where he worked as a geologist for a number of commercial laboratories and environmental consulting firms before joining Tellus Science Museum in 2005.

Talks include: "A Collecting Trip to the Ilmaussaq Alkaline complex, south Greenland", "An Overview of Current Photomicrography Techniques", and "the Mineralogy of Graves Mountain, Lincoln County, Georgia.

The Conference will include an auction of fine, rare and unusual micromounts. The "Freebie Table" will have will have a large selection of micros. Lunch will be served Saturday afternoon.

**Location: Congressional School
Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church, VA22042**

**Advance Registration Fee \$30. Door: \$35.
Contact Steve Weinberger, Conference Chair
PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302**



James Madison University Mineral Museum - New Minerals Update

By Kathy Hrechka

After touring JMU on April 15 with my daughter Julia for a "college acceptance day", we decided to visit Dr. Lance Kearns in his mineral museum. He welcomed us and showed us the newest mineral acquisitions donated by Peter L Via.

Elbaite w. Quartz from Paprok, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan (approximate size 8x10 inches)



Smithsonite from the San Antonio, El Grande Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico (3x4 inches)



The museum features over 550 crystal and gemstone specimens from around the world. They are arranged in the following displays:

- Systematic Collection - specimens arranged by chemistry and structure
- Locality Collections - Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Elmwood, Tennessee
- Fluorescent Display - minerals from Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey



The collection began in 1976 under the curation of Dr. Lance E. Kearns. Initial support for the collection was generously bestowed by both the University of Delaware Mineral Museum and the Bryn Mawr College Mineral Museum. Gifts from several private collectors in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware were instrumental in the initial development of the display collection as well.

In 1989 the museum received a substantial monetary gift from the estate of the late Dr. Richard S. Mitchell (mineralogy professor, University of Virginia); followed in 1993 by an additional gift of \$50,000 from the estate of his father, Mr. Clarence Mitchell of Nebraska. The Virginia Minerals collection is endowed through these gifts, as well as others from alumni and friends of the collection, by the James Madison University Foundation.

Through the initiative of Dr. David Brakke, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, a new, secure museum facility was constructed during the summer of 2007. The grand opening of museum was celebrated on October 13, 2007.

Photo: Dr. Kearns' wife, Cindy, Geology Department Instructor



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

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



You are invited Thursday night to Hanna Park at the beach. Star Gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy Society members and Telescopes (Saturn will be spectacular!) Cook out provided by Host society JGMS.

- *SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting – Friday 7pm
- *SFMS Annual Meeting – Saturday 9am
- *ALAA Meeting – Saturday 2:30pm
- *Awards Banquet – Saturday 6pm
- *Editors and Webmasters Breakfast – Sun. 9am
- *40+ retail dealers, Fantastic exhibits and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, Lectures on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations, workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions and more.

All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at the: Marriott, Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786 (Mention AFMS meeting for \$82 room rate. Offer Expires August 5, 2013.) (This rate is good from Sept. 15th to 25th)

Enjoy the Annual Jacksonville Gem Show!!!



Communication and Involvement
Are the Keys to Our Success!

Geology Events:

By Matt Charsky

April:

26-28: Graves Mountain, GA: The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (SFMS) has issued an open invitation for clubs to join them in a field trip to Graves Mountain. Contact Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior), 706-359-3862 (business) or 706-401-3173 (cell).

22: NVMC Meeting: Speaker - Dr. Andrew Beck Smithsonian Meteorite Expedition 7:45-10pm: Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington, VA

27-28: Sterling Hill Mining Museum Super Dig and Mineral Sale: Saturday 10am-11pm and Sunday, 10am-3pm (sale only). The address is The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439, 973-209-MINE (6463), info@sterlinghillminingmuseum.org; <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/gemmineral/index.php>.

May:

3-4: Atlantic Micromounter's Conference Congressional School, Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church, VA 22042

June:

1 - 2: EFMLS Convention & Show hosted by the Island Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Plainview, New York. EFMLS Meeting; Friday, May 31.

EFMLS WORKSHOPS AT WILDACRES

*September 2 - 8 Speakers: Quintin & Willow Wight, Distinguished Writers, Editors, and Micromineralogists. Register early. Tuition is \$380 per person. EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls> Just click on the Wildacres tab.