

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 46 – No. 5

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

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

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

Program: Basics of Radiation and Uranium Mineralization

Presenter: Jim Kostka, IBA MOLECULAR

Club member, Jim Kostka will present the Basics of Radiation and Uranium Mineralization and classification. He will include a tour of his Radioactive Collectables. Club members and guests are invited to bring in their HOT ROCKS too.

Jim's biography is continued on page 2.

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

President's Message:

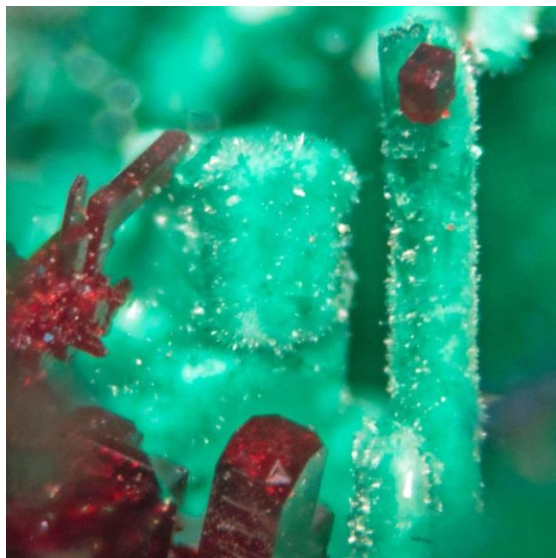
By: Dave MacLean



The 40th annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference included three talks by Julian Gray from the Tellus Museum, Cartersville, GA, the auction, and time to share and talk with each other. Julian Gray talked about a collecting trip to SW Greenland, Techniques and equipment for microphotography, and minerals of Graves Mountain, Georgia. Bidding was lively in the auction bringing in almost \$500.

At our Wednesday, May 22 meeting we will discuss possibilities for the conference in the Spring 2014.

Photo of the Month



Cuprite on Malachite, New Cliffe Hill Quarry, Stanton-under-Bardon, Leicestershire, England. (FOV 2 mm) Photomicrographer, Michael Pabst

**Thank-you Carolyn & Steve
Weinberger, Conference Chairs
1998-2013**



Special feature on pages 3-5.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 4/24/13

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

The evening events began with the program, a video presentation titled "Tucson 2013" by Michael and Karen Pabst. This was followed immediately by the business meeting, which was opened at 8:50 p.m. by President Dave Maclean; the treasurer followed with his report. The minutes for the previous meeting on March 20, 2013, should be modified, in the section titled "New business", dealing with the conference for the year 2014, and should read as follows; Steve Weinburger's participation in running the conference would be limited to (1) continuing to take photographs for the auction if no one else is available, and (2) advise the new chairman on obtaining a speaker, organizing the conference, etc.. Steve would also turn over to the new chairman his list of suggested speakers, records, etc.

Old business - This dealt with the upcoming 2013 conference -- specifically, the Friday setups (mainly laying the power cables), and getting dealers for the conference. Some of our dealers believe that the club's take of 15% of total sales is too high (note; back in the late 1980's, the club's take was 20% of total sales!). A better way might be a flat rate per dealer table. The members voted to allow a smaller club take, and to give the conference chairman the power to negotiate a rate that would be acceptable to him and to the dealers.

New business - This dealt with a possible conference in 2014. Do we want it at all? No one has yet volunteered to take on the chairmanship for the conference. Various details were considered. One conclusion was, essentially, let's see how the 2013 conference goes, in our new location, and see how many people attend the conference. We should come to some conclusion at our club meeting in May. On another matter, it wasn't known whether Lance Keans is already an honorary member, so the club voted to make him an honorary member.

Announcement - Reminder of the field trip to the Manassas Quarry on May 18, 2013, 3 p.m. The NVMC will be invited to make this a joint field trip. Lance Kearns may participate on the field trip as a club member, but if he brings any students, they would not be covered by the club insurance.

Speaker, Jim Kostka's Biography:

Having worked in nuclear medicine supply chain since 1994 (IBA MOLECULAR), Jim picked up his hobby relating to radioactive minerals as a curiosity and an off-shoot of his radioactive employment. (In this case, curiosity irradiates the cat.)

Ten or twelve years ago, first attending and then joining the Gem Hunters of Northern Virginia, which was then meeting at the Manassas mall, later to join the NVMC. Intrigued by the wonderful micro crystals of uranium minerals Jim also joined the MNCA. His first scope was a craigslist bargain - dual head Nikon - which you may have seen it at our clubs micro demonstrations - is usually set up in the basement of his home in Leesburg, specifically to tempt his children into looking. Thou the children have been caught looking at bugs, alas no Kostka child has taken up dad's itch for rocks... Jim regularly attends four DC area clubs meetings - and is also a member of the GLMSMC and the Baltimore based Chesapeake club. One area of specialization is - recycle old rock collections and selling Uranium ores and lapidary equipment on EBay. Jim K has helped with education outreach to schools, scouts, and micro demonstrations at area show. Jim is also the Co-Chair for the NVMC GMU show.

Previous Program Reviewed 4/24/13

By: George Reimherr, Secretary

Michael Pabst presented photos from the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show 2013. "Fluorite" was the show theme. He spoke about how there were spectacular fluorites for sale, or on display by various collectors and museums. This year also featured an amazing display of minerals from China at the University of Arizona, and at the official show.



40th Atlantic Micromounters Conference Recap 2013

By: Steve Weinberger, Chair

I think I speak for everyone who attended our 40th annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference when I say that the weekend was an unqualified success!

We had 30 attendees including our guest speaker Julian Gray, curator at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. Julian presented three talks;

- A Collecting Trip to the Illimaussaq Alkaline Complex, South Greenland
- A Review of Current Photomicrography Techniques
- The Mineralogy of Graves Mountain, Lincoln Co., Georgia

All were extremely well received and were followed by lengthy question and answer sessions. Our thanks go to Julian for enhancing the conference.

The Congressional School cafeteria provided an acceptable venue for the conference although the issue of stairs that made access a bit difficult was always present. Thanks to those who helped others in bringing in materials, scopes, etc. The size of the room was a bit small – had we had more dealers (two could not attend and one decided to go home rather than accept help in bringing in his wares) they would have had tables in the hallway outside the cafeteria. The arrangement would have worked, but not been as cozy as having everything in one room.

The kitchen arrangement, such as it was, worked well. We had limited access to a refrigerator and this made storing lunch items overnight possible. The decision to allow everyone to fix their own sandwiches worked out well and we heard no complaints. Based on the leftovers, no one appeared to go hungry.



I've not yet received all the bills for the weekend, so cannot report whether we gained or lost revenue. An early tally shows that we seem to have broken even – thanks in large part to income from our dealers. The percentage they pay is often the difference between losing money and breaking even.

Thanks need to go to the set-up and cleanup crews who deployed and later removed and stowed wires, cleaned tables, spot cleaned the floor and removed all our trash. I'll not name everyone who helped for fear of missing someone, but I do especially want to thank Dave MacLean for finding the venue (George Reimherr helped too) and hosting Julian at his home for the weekend. Dave also took Julian to Reagan National on Sunday for his flight home.

As I announced to the club a month or two ago, this was my last Atlantic conference serving as chairman. I've been chairman for 15 years and have enjoyed the opportunity you've given me. I believe that over the years we've had excellent speakers and wonderful weekends of sharing our hobby.

I plan on turning over all the records etc. to the new chairperson once he/she is named and making myself available as a resource to that new chairperson. Both Carolyn and I will make every effort to continue attending the conferences providing there is no conflict with Wildacres, Rochester or Eastern Federation activities that we cannot avoid.

**Thank-you Steve & Carolyn
Weinberger for Fifteen Years of
Leadership at our Atlantic
Micromounter Conference! 1998-2013**

* Thank you Steve and Carolyn for all your efforts on the MNCA Conferences. **John Ebner.**

* Kudos on 15 years of successful and informative conferences! Good things come in small packages (micros!!) but not without a lot of hard work. Thank you for stepping up. **Dave Hennessey**

* We couldn't have had a better pair to lead us! I'm just sorry I had to miss the last conference they were leaders for! **Barbara Sky**

*Thank you for the service you provided to our hobby. It is a wonderful mitzvah. Warm regards, **Barry Remer**

* Carolyn and Steve the members of the Micromineralogists than both of you for the well organized and interesting programs for the last 15 years of the Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Both of you did a superb job of organizing the conference, promoting it, processing registrations, recruiting the speaker, mounting and photographing the minerals, preparing the slides and conducting the auction. The lunches were always tasty and ample. Well done and thank you from all of us. **David Maclean, MNCA President**

* You two really know how to party! - that is put on the annual Micro Symposium. All your help over all these years is greatly appreciated. **Jim Kostka**

* Since moving to Virginia from Memphis, Karen and I have had the pleasure of attending two wonderful Atlantic Micromount Conferences. Our wholehearted thanks to Carolyn and Steve Weinberger for enriching our lives and for promoting mineralogy. At the last conference auction, where many people obtained very nice specimens under the splendid auctioneering of Steve, I got the Cuprite specimen shown in the photo, which was generously donated by George Reimherr. Cuprite on Malachite. **Michael Pabst, MNCA Treasurer**

* I would like to personally thank two people who worked tirelessly for both the AMC and BMS. I returned to both conferences after a long absence and Carolyn and Steve were there to assist in any way that I required. Now, you two will be able to enjoy both conferences and let someone else deal with any "oops" that might come up. I love and respect both of you and look forward to seeing you again. **Maureen Campeau**

*We all recognize that getting out flyers, arranging for a speaker, securing the venue and setting up a lunch requires a hell of a lot of hard work. And those are the easier tasks as compared to putting the auction together inclusive of photographing and listing the donations. Fifteen years is a very long time for that level of commitment. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Steve and Carolyn. Finding a replacement(s) will be sooo difficult. **George Loud**

* Judging by this one conference--my only, thus far--I have been missing out on some really good times, some interesting topics, & some nice additions to my collection. It's great whenever we can get together but this conference was especially nice in bringing people together from a number of different states, but all bound by a mutual fascination for this frequently unseen & underappreciated fragment of our incredible natural world. Thanks everybody. Special thanks to Steve & Carolyn for all their time & effort & for being excellent MCs of this event. BIG shoes to fill but outstanding examples to follow as we take over for them. **David Fryauff**

* A Haiku: Two days a year. Many little presents. How happy they make us. **Erich Grundel**

* It was a great day! I had lots of fun and enjoyed so many good interactions. **Hilar**

* Simply, thank-you. I am appreciative of the quality of speakers you have brought to our conferences, as well as your efforts to provide lively auctions of micros. **Kathy Hrechka, Editor of *The Mineral Mite***

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

David Fryauff & Julian Grey



Michael Pabst



Karen & David Wells



Dave Hennessey



Jim Kostka



Mike Seeds



Cynthia Payne



Jason Smith & Scott Braley



Smith, Kostka, Kathy Hrechka



Photography provided by Hilar and Kathy

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Diamond Photomicrography Day

By: Kathy Hrechka

The 2013 conference was amazing! Julian Gray was our featured speaker on May 3 and 4 at the Congressional School in Fairfax. Julian is the curator of the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia.

His lecture on photographing minerals was the best I had ever seen, which included stacking software for optimum clarity of micros. My friend, Hilar mentored me during the program. He designed a coupling to connect my Canon Power Shot camera to my Olympus microscope. I can now photograph my own micro diamond collection. My first attempt of photomicrography of a new diamond from the North West Territories, Canada is featured below.

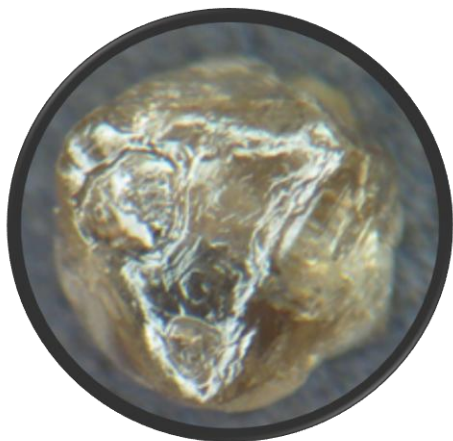


Photo of Kathy taken by Scott Braley

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

Dues: 2013 MNCA Membership Dues
\$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?"



**NASA's Rocket
Assembly Building
Cape Canaveral,
Florida**

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

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



- *SFMS Cracker Barrel Fri. 7pm
- *SFMS Annual Meeting – Sat. 9am
- *ALAA Meeting – Sat. 2:30pm
- *Awards Banquet – Sat. 6pm
- *Editor/Web 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

May:

5 - Spring Mineral Auction sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, DC. Knights of Columbus, 9707 Rosensteel Ave; Silver Spring, MD. Noon Preview, Auction at 1pm.

25 - 24th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (I-695, exit 26B), Towson, MD. Hours 10 am– 4 pm.

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 Micromineralogists, Writers, Editors. Author of The Complete Book of Micromounting, Quinton is very knowledgeable about minerals, especially those found at Mt. St. Hilaire in Quebec, Canada. Willow is a gem expert who represents Canada at international gem conferences around the world. Together they'll present talks on a wide variety of subjects -- minerals, gems and travel to places they've visited. Register early. Tuition is \$380 per person.

EFMLS website<www.amfed.org/efmls>
Just click on the Wildacres tab