



MNCA Website [dcmicrominerals.org](http://dcmicrominerals.org)

# The Mineral Mite



Vol. 50 – No. 4

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists

April 2017

50 Years 1967 - 2017

April 26 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22206

## Program: Minerals of the Elmwood Mine in Tennessee

As micromineralogists, we are fortunate to be mostly unconcerned by cost in acquiring specimens. Nevertheless, there are mineralogists and collectors and investors who are interested both in esthetics and in profit/loss in trading of mineral specimens. The Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium caters to high-end collectors, investors, and museums. The symposium is kind enough to provide readers of the *Mineralogical Record* with a DVD of their proceedings. In the latest 2016 edition of the DVD, there are 11 talks. Among them, there is a talk by Dr. Steve Neely: “Elmwood, Tennessee – Past and Present Perspectives”. Please bring along specimens and photos of Elmwood Mine minerals to share with our group.

### Photo of the Month



Chalcotrichite, Variety of Cuprite,  
Ray Pit, Kearney, Arizona

Michael Pabst

## President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean

Congratulations to Kathy Hrechka, and all the persons who worked to make our “MNCA 50th Anniversary”, Atlantic Micromounters’ Conference such a success. Thank you all.

We will publish summaries of Dr. Michael Wise's and Scott Duresy's talks at our conference in *The Mineral Mite*.

We will remember George Reimherr who died on Friday, March 31. When I think about the successes he made, they are more numerous to list. Personally, I have missed and will continue to miss sharing rides to MNCA and NVMC meetings and collecting trips. His acceptance standards for keeping what he found were very high. He even took some of what he collected back to the quarry on his next trip.

George's visitation was 4-6pm Sunday, April 9 at the Demaine Funeral Home at 5308 Backlick Road, Springfield, and his funeral Mass was 1030am on Monday April 10 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield, Virginia.

A card or condolence to Helen Reimherr at 7944 Jansen Drive, Springfield, VA 22152-2411 is always welcome.

George Reimherr  
1937 - 2017

Reflections on page 7 & 8



**Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/22/17**

By: Bob Cooke, Secretary



President Dave MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. March 22, 2017. No past presidents were present. Ten members and one guest (Jonathon) were present.

The February meeting minutes were approved as published in the March Mineral Mite.

**Treasurer's report:** Michael Pabst gave the Treasurer's Report. The club received \$405 from the sale of loupes and micromounts at the GLMS-MC Mineral Show.

**Old business:** Kathy Hrechka announced the location for the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference has been moved to the Holiday Inn (immediately adjacent to the original location) due to water damage at SpringHill Suites. Advance registration stands at 22. Kathy reviewed sign-up duties. Members agreed that the club stock of micromounts should be offered for sale at the AMC on a donation basis.

**New business:** Erich Grundel proposed the club consider using FaceBook /U-Tube/etc. to allow monthly presentations to be made from remote locations. After extended discussion, it was recognized the specialized hardware and software would be required. Robert Clemenzi agreed to investigate options.

**Announcements:** Michael Pabst announced that he had received Phenom sample holders from Nanoscience Instruments (the Alexandria company marketing the Phenom brand of affordable Scanning Electron Microscopes). Michael mounted samples of a dozen known minerals onto the stands and returned them to Nanoscience Instruments. He will follow-up with the company to review their progress and determine future steps.

George Reimherr is still in poor health. He is at home, receiving hospice care twice a day. A card was circulated for members to express their best wishes. Members were further encouraged to contact George and to hold him in their prayers. Our meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Membership Dues are Due: 2017  
Single = \$15. Family = \$20.**

**Payable to MNCA - Michael Pabst, Treasurer  
270 Rachel Drive Penn Laird, VA 22846**

**Previous Program Reviewed: 2/22/17**

Michael and Karen Pabst presented their trip of visiting three world class geology museums in Paris, France entitled: "Prospecting in Paris."



- 1. The National Museum of Natural History**, where they could photograph a special exhibit, "Treasures of the Earth".
- 2. Minerals Collection at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie**, where they visited the museum, but could not photograph, so instead have pictures from a book. The book is by one of Michael's photography heroines, Nelly Bariand, whose husband Pierre was the long-time curator.
- 3. Mineralogy Museum at Mines Paris Tech**, which they did not visit on this trip, but have visited in the past. (Urgent business at Versailles and an unfortunate schedule of opening days interfered with a visit this time.)

**Our First Atlantic Micromounters' Conference with Paul Desautels, 1969 Curator of GGM at Smithsonian**



## 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary of MNCA Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

By Kathy Hrechka, Conference Chair

Thank you all, for participating in our milestone celebration of our fifty years as a micromounting club. Our club's history began in 1967 under the direction of Paul Desautels, Geology, Gems, & Mineral Curator at the Smithsonian. Fast forward to 2017, when Dr. Michael A. Wise, Smithsonian geologist accepted our invitation to be conference speaker. Dr. Wise, the pegmatite expert, presented three fascinating programs including micro minerals for our conference attendees:  
\*“The Smithsonian’s Micromount Collection”  
\*“Merelaniite and Associated Minerals of the Merelani Tanzanite Deposit”  
\*“Tiny Minerals in Big Rocks: The Microminerals of Granitic Pegmatites”

We honored legacy club members, including; \*Paul & Jennie Smith, \*Fred Schaefermeyer, \*Joe Murter, Erich Grundel, Barbara Sky, \*George Reimherr, and our charter member, \*Cynthia Payne. (\*deceased)  
Erich Grundel won a gold specimen for having the most seniority in MNCA’s membership, since 1979. Scott Duresky won a gold specimen for having the most junior membership since 2008. Dave Hennessey was awarded a “Centenary” pink diamond micro for his geology, longevity membership since high school.

Saturday morning Kathy Hrechka presented some of her snow crystal photomicrography. In the evening, Scott Duresky of Charlottesville, presented “Newly-Identified Members of the Microlite Group from the Rutherford Mine Pegmatite at Amelia Courthouse, Virginia”.

With gratitude, I wish to personally thank Dave MacLean, Bob Cooke, Karen & Michael Pabst, Dave Hennessey, Erich Grundel, and Robert Clemenzi in working behind the scenes to make our “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” a memorable conference. I thank Dr. Michael A. Wise and Scott Duresky for presenting. Lastly, I wish to thank my MNCA team who presented flowers to me, as conference chair.

*Sincerely, Kathy Hrechka*



Dr. Michael A. Wise and his wife, Vickie Wise



Steve & Carolyn Weinberger in front row



*Photographs courtesy Kathy Hrechka & Hillar Ilves*

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



Bob Cooke, Virginia



Barbara Sky, Missouri



Karen & Michael Pabst, Virginia

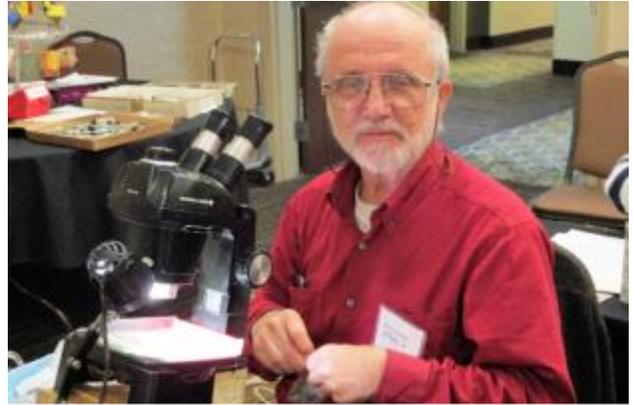


Mike Seeds, Pennsylvania

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



Mike Seeds, PA; Harry Doyle, VA; Al Pribula, MD



Erich Grundel, Virginia - member since 1979



Robert Rothenberg, New York



Mike Seeds, Pennsylvania



Kathy Hrechka, Virginia



Jim Prentiss, Tennessee

## “The Smithsonian Micromount Collection”

Presented by Dr. Michael A. Wise, Department of Mineral Science, Smithsonian Institution 3/31, 2017



The Department of Mineral Sciences micro mineral collection contains many 42,000-mounted micro sized minerals, comprising 11% of the entire mineral collection. There are several reasons for collecting micro minerals. Small mineral crystals are more abundant, less expensive, and the crystals far more likely to be perfect and suitable for determining their structure. Because of their very small size, the Smithsonian has no micro minerals on exhibit.

The noteworthy collections and year donated include: **George Brewer** over 1,000 micros including goosecreekite and other minerals from the Goose Creek Quarry in Loudoun County, VA and Union Bridge Quarry in Fredrick County, MD. Brewer was a field collector extraordinaire, who donated his collection to the museum in 1990.

**Paul Desautels** 1967 former curator of the mineral collection, 4,326 micros, 304 species, 1,742 systematic collection of about 275 species.

**Herb & Geneva Corbett** 3,243 micros

**Robert Gates** 1,166 micros

**Cecil Graves** 1975 7,608 micros originally donated to the Naturalist Center in Leesburg, VA

**Mair Moody** micros not yet catalogued.

**Randy Rothschild** 4,411 micros

**Earnest Shernikav** 340 micros

**Robert Whitmore** 565 micros

**Neal Yedlin** 1982 20,000 micros, 841 species, 77 countries including orange and green diamonds.

**Zimmerman/Darnell** 2,151 micros originally donated to the Naturalist Center in Leesburg, VA

**Franklin, NY** micros 136 species

“Orphaned” specimens and # of unknowns

Dr. Wise revealed that the micromount collections go unnoticed, for no one comes to look at them. The Mineral Sciences Department lends out individual specimens for nondestructive study. A 1mm crystal is enough for a structure determination. Apparently, there is a micro mineral collection and microscopes at the museum’s Q?rius, an education zone designed for teens, and the general visitor.

Online access to four of the micro collections is available via the National Museum of Natural History; Mineral Sciences, search catalogue, search mineralogy, search collection name such as Yedlin or Desautels. No photos of individual minerals are available. However, a slide show and video film loop showing 50 micro photos of colorful micro minerals.

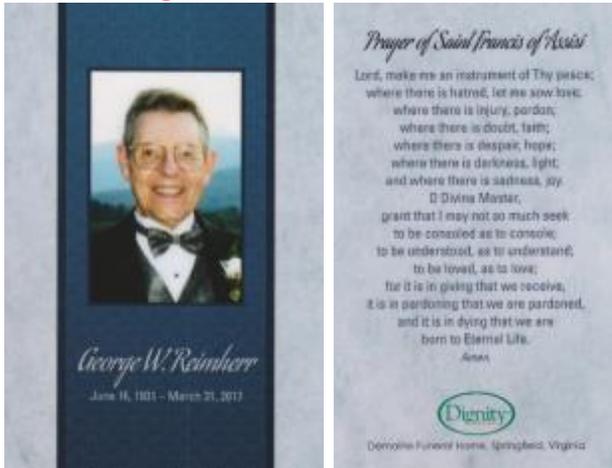
Dr. Wise invited our conference members to volunteer to catalog, remount and photograph micro minerals for the museum, under his direction. During his presentations, he showed some micro photos taken from his cell phone through the microscope. That was his first experience, guided by Kathy Hrechka, while she provided photomicrography for many of his micros in the program.

After this presentation, there was some discussion concerning the decreasing access in the Eastern USA including presumably the Midwest to places such as quarries likely to contain micro and other minerals.

*Written by Dave MacLean*



**George Reimherr 1931 – 2017**



Our dear geo friend, George Reimherr passed away on March 31. George is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Helen, and their daughter Trish. Trish is married to Hector, and they have two sons, Julian and Evan, who reside locally.

George was a Physics major at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He also attended John Hopkins. He received his Master's degree at the University of Maryland. His personal hobbies included geology, growing azaleas, and bike riding, and classical music. Each year on Beethoven's birthday, he celebrated with a cake, baked by Helen. He also had a deep faith in his Catholic religion. His funeral Mass was held on April 10 at St. Bernadette's in Springfield, and was buried at the National Memorial Park in Fall Church, Virginia.

We remember him for his passion and generosity for our micromounting hobby.  
Written by Kathy Hrechka



**Memories of George Reimherr**

By Dave MacLean

I was honored to say yes when Helen Reimherr asked me to be a pall bearer at George's Celebration of His Life and his Life to Come. During the mass the priest preface some of the prayers and blessings with "our brother George". Truly we are family with the opportunity to share our blessings and sorrows as God shares in our blessings and sorrows.

George was the most focused, organized and orderly mineral collector I ever met. Every specimen was labeled with its name, locality found, price paid, and when acquired. For his extensive thumbnail collection, he stored each specimen in its own white box in drawers of several architect's chest of drawers. Architects used the same chests with large flat shallow drawers for storing drawings and plans. He even gave me a catalog for the chests of drawers to store my disorderly ways of keeping specimens

In addition, every specimen which George kept had to comply with his rigorous standards or be given away or taken back to the quarry. I remember going with George to the quarries and taking home minerals with micro or small thumbnail potential while George would say "I found nothing!". George was generous with the minerals he sold at NVMC auctions or gave away.

About five years ago George asked about the quartz crystals both of us found in September 1994 on a farm in western North Carolina. When found the quartz was covered with clay cemented together with limonite. He cleaned his finds immediately with Iron Out and picking with a dental pick under his microscope to remove the clay. About five years ago he asked me to give him most of the quartz, which I found which in 1994. He returned the quartz crystals about two weeks later with all the clay and limonite removed.

George always wanted to do his part. We shared driving for mineral club meetings and collecting trips. George kept records of who drove when to keep us even. After one of family our trips to Hungary, I brought back the results of trades with the Department of Mineralogy at the technical university in Budapest. One year I brought back a small set of sphalerite crystals from the closed 1992 zinc mines near

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Gyongyes in North Hungary, which I gave to George, later he returned the favor with a large plate of tan rhombic calcite crystals on limestone from the Tarmac Quarry in Hanover, PA. Thank you, George.

In his earlier years, George was an HO gauge model railroader. He demonstrated to me his meticulously constructed model railroad set up on a large table. In his earlier years, George grew large crystals of copper sulfate, potassium dichromate, sodium alum and other chemicals, which one does not think can be used to grow large crystals. In later years, he said that because he was an individual without a “corporate letterhead”, he could not buy crystal growing chemical from the scientific supply houses such as EH Sargent.

Shortly before his death George asked his grandson Julian to bring to him one of the drawers of thumbnail minerals to show his older grandson Evan, age 13. After seeing the minerals Evan was hooked. He has become the new mineral collector after George. Evan is the enthusiastic sequel. I treasure the gift of knowing George and wish him well in his new life to come.

### Dave Hennessey’s reflection:

George was a good friend and I will miss him. We collected together on many occasions in the traprock quarries of Northern Virginia and my collection includes many specimens that came from George by trade or gift. I will remember George for his generous nature, mostly his giving of himself. He encouraged folks who were new to the hobby and served each club he belonged to (NVMC, GLMSMC, MNCA) in various capacities - as the secretary of MNCA for as long as I can remember and as a volunteer at each club's mineral shows.

A mineral passing through George's hands always came away in better shape than when it came to him. Cleaned, trimmed, and properly labeled. And he generously donated many specimens to the nature center to be gifted to visitors. Our club and our hobby are better off for George having been a part of them.



George last attended our Atlantic Micromounter’s Conference in 2015. He passed away on our club’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference.

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### Fred Schaefermeyer - Quantico, VA Ashes Burial on March 31, 2017



Children: Sherry, Martin, Mark, and Michael

## Wulfenite

By Michael Pabst

Wulfenite is lead molybdate  $\text{PbMoO}_4$ . Wulfenite is a member of the Scheelite Group, which contains Powellite  $\text{CaMoO}_4$ , Raspite  $\text{PbWO}_4$ , Scheelite  $\text{CaWO}_4$ , Stolzite  $\text{PbWO}_4$  and Wulfenite  $\text{PbMoO}_4$ . Wulfenite is tetragonal  $4/m$  – dipyramidal, meaning that it has a 4-fold axis of rotation and one mirror plane (top to bottom). Wulfenite is, in fact, less symmetrical than many of its crystals appear. It is not truly symmetrical front-to-back or right-to-left, although many crystals appear to show such symmetry. Wulfenite occurs in a variety of colors, including colorless, yellow, orange, red, brown, blue and green, which suggests that molybdenum itself provides no color. The habit varies between square wafers, pyramids and needles.

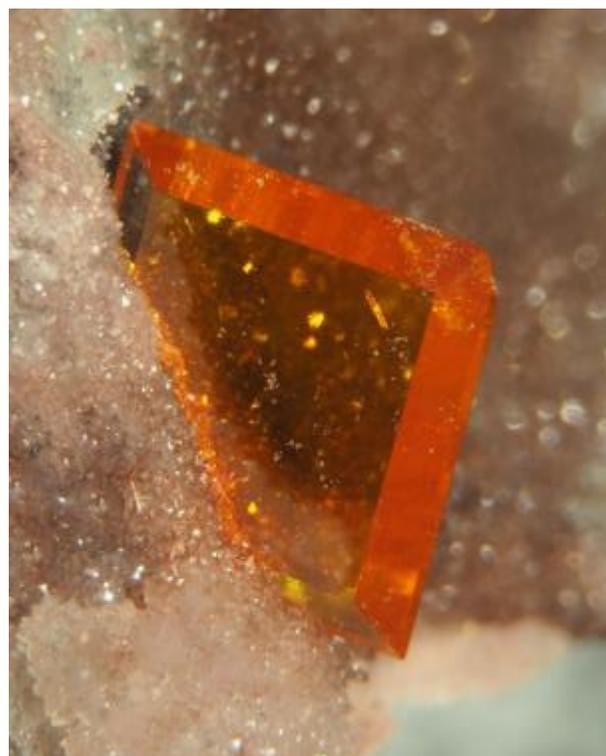


Wulfenite, Great Souther Mine, AZ. FOV 2 mm.

Wulfenite is a minor ore of molybdenum, but the primary ore of molybdenum is Molybdenite,  $\text{MoS}_2$ . In search of this ore, mountains in Colorado have been leveled, and vast wastelands of tailings have marred the landscape. Molybdenite is soft, and in earlier eras, was sometimes mistaken for Graphite. Molybdenite is an excellent dry lubricant. Most molybdenum is used to make steel alloys. Molybdenum compounds can have every oxidation state between 0 and  $6^+$ , with  $4^+$  (like Molybdenite) and  $6^+$  (like Wulfenite) being the most stable.

In the Periodic Table, chromium is the lightest element in its column, molybdenum is in the row above chromium, and tungsten is above molybdenum. Chemically, molybdenum is closer in its properties to tungsten than to chromium. These three elements can substitute for one another in minerals. Last month we looked at a bright orange-red chromium-containing wulfenite from Chile  $\text{Pb}(\text{Mo},\text{Cr})\text{O}_4$ . There is also a series between Wulfenite  $\text{PbMoO}_4$  and Stolzite  $\text{PbWO}_4$ .

Over years of collecting and photographing minerals, I have been fortunate to come across some remarkable wulfenite specimens, including some whose photos you might already have seen. But I cannot resist showing a gallery of wulfenite photos in the next column.



Wulfenite, Red Cloud Mine, Yum, AZ. FOV 8 mm.

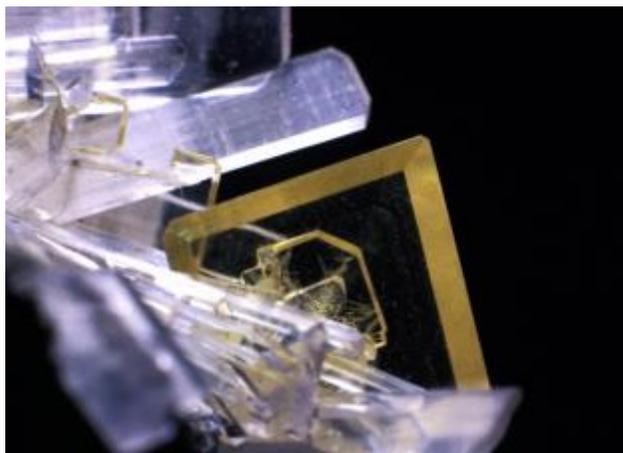
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**Wulfenite** (orange), Diopside (green), Fluorite (colorless cubes), Willemite (colorless hexagonal prisms) and Murdochite (tiny black octahedrons) Mammoth-St. Anthony Mine, Tiger, AZ. FOV 2 mm.



**Wulfenite** (orange), Kasolite (yellow), Torbernite (green) and Malachite (green grass) from Musonoi, Katanga, DR Congo. FOV 5 mm.



**Wulfenite** (yellow) and Hemimorphite (colorless) Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. FOV 7 mm.



**Wulfenite** (yellow) and Diopside (green) from Tsumeb, Namibia. FOV 20 mm.

Not only is molybdenum remarkable for providing wulfenite, one of the most beautiful of minerals, but molybdenum is also essential for life on earth. The following is a brief excursion into the role of molybdenum in biology (and into my former life as a biochemist).

During these articles, we have looked at uranium and thorium, and at vanadium and chromium. It is not clear that any of these elements are essential for life (although V and Cr might have uses). But molybdenum is key to life in general, and it is an essential element in human nutrition. Deficiencies in molybdenum, or mutations in the enzymes that make the molybdenum cofactor, or in the enzymes that utilize molybdenum, lead to death.

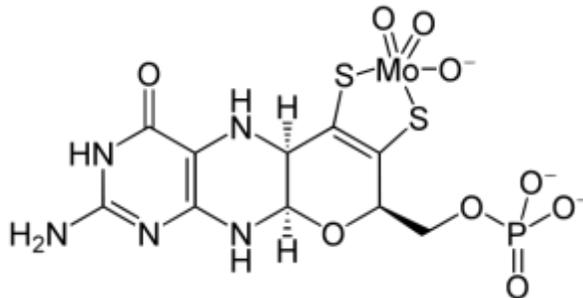
Molybdenum has two major roles in biology. Primitive bacteria used molybdenum-containing enzymes to fix nitrogen. This made possible the evolution of more advanced organisms that produced oxygen, leading to the explosion of life forms on earth, and to the appearance of oxidized minerals, which are the majority of minerals worth collecting.

Continued on next page

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The second role of molybdenum in higher organisms like humans is as a cofactor for enzymes that are essential for life, like sulfite oxidase and xanthine oxidase. Absence of sulfite oxidase leads to early death in infants, due to inability to metabolize the sulfur-containing amino acids, cysteine and methionine. Humans must make the molybdenum cofactor from scratch; we cannot eat it like a vitamin. Here below is the structure of the molybdenum cofactor. A complicated, multi-step process is required to make it. Any mutation in the series of enzymes that make molybdenum cofactor is fatal. The molybdenum cofactor resembles the B vitamin, folic acid, which humans cannot make, but must eat.

As a reformed biochemist, I consider this Molybdenum Cofactor to be an elegant molecule:



Molybdenum Cofactor

(This standard drawing from Wikipedia shows Mo with 7 bonds, which is formally incorrect, because Mo is  $6^+$  in the cofactor. One of the  $=O$  should be drawn as  $-O^-$ ) (See, I was a professor!)

Getting back to mineralogy, perhaps next month, I will see if I can manage a good picture of Molybdenite.



Photomicrography by Michael Pabst

## MNCA Micromounter Demonstration

By Kathy Hrechka

On March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, members of our club demonstrated the “art of micromounting” at the annual Gem Lapidary Mineral Society of Montgomery County show in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Volunteers included: Bob Cooke, Dave MacLean, Erich Grundel, David Fryauff, and Kathy Hrechka.



Erich Grundel



Dave MacLean



Kenny Reynold's Family

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Geology Field Trips

By David Fryauff, Vice President

Welcome to the 2017 collecting season. I am here announcing April Field trips to primo sites in PA, MD, and NJ.

**April 18 New Enterprise Stone & Lime Gettysburg Quarry** (formerly known as Teeter's Gettysburg Quarry) 1575 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, PA -- Tuesday, April 18th from 0700-1100. All participants must bring with them the attached three forms, signed & dated: 1. Site-Specific Hazard Recognition Training; 2. Waiver and Release for Adult/Minor Visitors (All minors must be accompanied by the legal parent/guardian who fills out the minor forms), 3. GLMSMC Assumption of Risks, Waiver, & Indemnification Agreement. Standard rules and full personal safety gear as specified in the attached rules. RSVP to me (Dave Fryauff) by April 16th.

**April 21 Medford Quarry**, 1111 Medford Rd, New Windsor, MD - Friday, 21 Apr from 0800-1200. Be on time or don't bother showing. Park in between the main building and the main pit, facing south. Consolidate into as few cars as possible because there is not much room to park. I will sign us all in and then we will get the brief. Since we will only be getting in once each year, there will be no maximum group size. I don't want personal RSVP's, so please consolidate your group's participants and let me (Sam Linton) know the headcount by COB 19 Apr. We will collect in the derelict pit again (stay away from my hole! :)), but all standard rules apply.

**April 29-30 Sterling Hill NJ Garage Sale & Super Dig/Franklin NJ Mineral Show** - Saturday & Sunday, April 29-30th 0800-1700. Do not RSVP to me but you must register online to take advantage of the special Super Digg event. The annual Super Digg in the famous Franklin/Sterling Hill New Jersey zinc district featured in Chris' enlightening presentation is Saturday April 29th. This year the organizers have made a new untouched site "The Mill Dump" open for premium digging for a fee of \$50 + \$3/pound of material taken. There is a 225-person limit on the number of diggers for this special material and slots are filling fast. If you want to look at some different material from what is more commonly found at the

Buckwheat dump and the Sterling Hill Mine, sign up for this one.

[http://whoscoming.com/uvworld/2017\\_Franklin\\_Super-Digg.html](http://whoscoming.com/uvworld/2017_Franklin_Super-Digg.html)

If you cannot commit or are late, there are other places people can dig besides the "Mill Site". For more information about the exciting weekend go to

<http://superdigg.com/> and  
<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/visitor/schedule.php#events> and  
<https://franklinmineralmuseum.com/>.

Cheers, Dave Fryauff 240-277-7206

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### Club Geology Auction Invitation 5/6/17

By Dave Tiktinsky, GLMSMC

The Gem Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County (GLMSMC) is sponsoring an auction on May 6, 2017. A large quantity of lapidary equipment, lapidary supplies, cutting material and slabs. There are many flats of rough cutting material and slabs that will be auctioned off. Open to all -- members and non-members, dealers. Please join us.

When: Saturday May 6 (rain date Sunday May 7)

10:00am auction preview 11:00am live auction starts

*note: we are unable to accept credit cards*

Where: 11109 Rosemont Drive, Rockville, MD (near Tuckerman Lane and Old Georgetown Road)

For updated information and rain date notifications please see the GLMSMC Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511>

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Contact Dave at [dht444@yahoo.com](mailto:dht444@yahoo.com).

### Patuxent Lapidary Guild, Inc Annual Show



Patuxent Lapidary Guild, Inc. Annual Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Jewelry Show April 22nd, 2017 10am to 5pm Earleigh Hts VFC  
Rte 2 Severna Park, MD 21146  
Admission \$6.00, children under 10 and Veterans Free  
\$1.00 discount with this coupon

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

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

### **AFMS Show & Convention June 9-11 in Ventura, California**

An Invitation to Exhibit at This Year's National Show  
On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I invite you to exhibit in this year's national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. Enter either a competitive or a noncompetitive display—or one of each! Go to the show website at <[2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com](http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com)> to access and download entry forms by clicking on "Files and Entry Forms." You'll also find a direct link to the AFMS Uniform Rules manual. The deadlines are May 22 for noncompetitive entry forms and April 30 for competitive forms, so don't delay.

Exhibiting is fun! When displaying at a gem show, we not only get to show off our collections and handiwork but also to learn from others, seeing display techniques, getting advice, sharing tips, and forging bonds of friendship through mutual interests. There is a host of trophies for adult exhibitors, including a special trophy for nervous first-time Novice Exhibitors sponsored by the hosting Ventura society.

Kids entering either competitive or noncompetitive displays can earn the Showmanship badge in our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and those entering competition can strive for both trophies and the AFMS Lillian Turner Award. Several years ago, Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, generously donated funds to support an award for the best junior's exhibit at the annual AFMS Show. The award consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen and is presented at the Show Awards Ceremony. I guarantee that adults and kids who choose to display in Ventura will find the experience both rewarding and fun!

By: Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS/AFMS Show  
Publicity Chair



Eastern Federation of  
Mineralogical and  
Lapidary Societies

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

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

### **Geology Events:**

#### **April:**

##### **26: MNCA Meeting**

Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, VA 7:45 – 10 pm

**24: NVMC Meeting** Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, VA 7:45 – 10 pm

##### **29: Sterling Hill Super Dig**

**29-30: Annual Spring Franklin Gem & Mineral Show & Swap**, Franklin Elementary School, Washington Ave. Franklin, NJ – and they are deciding to access previously closed portions of the Buckwheat Dump – but you must register early.

##### **29-30: Ogdensburg, New Jersey – Annual Sterling Hill Garage Sale**

##### **29-30: Franklin, New Jersey - Annual Earth Science Association Show at the Washington School**

### **EFMLS Wildacres' Workshops**

#### **Spring Session: Bob Jones**

Executive Editor Rock & Gem Magazine  
May 22 – 28, 2017

#### **Fall Session: Tim Morgan**

Gem & Bead Educator  
September 4 – 10, 2017

Questions: contact Suzie Milligan, Registrar

[smilligan@stny.rr.com](mailto:smilligan@stny.rr.com) 607-687-5108

Pam Bryant, Director [pjbryant@juno.com](mailto:pjbryant@juno.com)

804-457-4698

Registration on EFMLS  
website, Wildacres tab



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – GOLD**  
**We Want to Hear How You Became**  
**Interested in Micromounting!**

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication, please write a paragraph or two on how, and when you began “Micromounting.”

Simply include:

- \* Your profession / retired
- \* Year you began micromounting
- \* Who inspired you?
- \* Why you are a micromounter?
- \* Something unique about you

Submit to Kathy [kshrechka@msn.com](mailto:kshrechka@msn.com)

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**GeoWord of the Day and its definition:**

**Peat-to-anthracite theory** (peat'-to-an'-thra-cite) A theory of coal formation as a process in which the progressive ranks of coal are indicative of the degree of *coalification* and, by inference, of the relative geologic age of the deposit. Peat, as the initial stage of coalification, is of recent geologic age; lignite, as an intermediate stage, is usually Tertiary or Mesozoic, and bituminous coal and anthracite, as the more advanced stages of coalification, are usually Carboniferous (Nelson and Nelson, 1967, p.271).

**Ajkaite** (aj'-ka-ite) A pale-yellow to dark reddish-brown, sulfur-bearing fossil resin found in brown coal. Also, spelled: ajkite.

**Anthropogene** (An-thro'-po-gene) An informal term for the latest interval of the *Cenozoic*, formerly widely used in the former USSR in place of *Quaternary*. The term refers to the anthropological characterization of the "ice age" interval, but was later defined by a level in the Ukraine which is closely equivalent to the international GSSP base of the *Pleistocene* at about 1.8 Ma. Cf: *Pleistogene*.

All terms and definitions come from the Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised.

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

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

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**Editor's Note:**  
By  
**Kathy Hrechka**



Send your articles and photos to your editor.  
**Club Article Deadline is 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.**  
**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 10th.**  
**No newsletter July/August**

**EFMLS Editor's Award**  
**First Place 2016 - Small Bulletins**



- Member inputs:**
- \* Dave MacLean
  - \* Michael Pabst
  - \* Bob Cooke
  - \* Dave Hennessey
  - \* Kathy Hrechka
  - \* David Fryauff



Kathy's retreat; panning for sea shells in Florida after our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference.