



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

# The Mineral Mite



Vol. 50 – No. 10 Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists December 2017

50 Years 1967 - 2017

**December 18 Time: 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

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

## **Holiday Party Monday, December 18**

By David Fryauff, Vice President



The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club are jointly hosting this year's holiday party at the Long Branch Nature Center. The NVMC will provide barbeque. The MNCA club will provide beverages. We are asking club members, on a voluntary basis, to provide appetizers and desserts. Please click on the link below and sign up to let us know how many in your party will attend and what you might be able to contribute. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aadaf2aa46-holiday>  
Micromount gift exchange: simply wrap and label "micro" on a gift you would like to exchange.

## **President's Message:**

By: Dave MacLean



On December 9, 2017 MSDC will celebrate their 75th anniversary and we will remember our 50th. I urge all to join the celebration at the Banquet 6pm – 10pm at the Holiday Inn, Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria.

At the recent Northern Virginia Mineral show I continued to see a large variety of minerals and fossils from some unusual places such as Libya, Iran, Egypt, and South Korea. There are a lot of places where one might find interesting mineral and fossils. I was favorably impressed by the steady flow of adults and children who looked at minerals thru a microscope. Some said ooh and ahh. Some bought loupes to look at small things at home.

I do not know how to turn this curiosity and admiration into more active participation in micro mineralogy. When I did a demo for a local club scout den there was interest for half an hour. Since there was only one microscope some kids became very restless. Our selling 20X and 10X loupes is a way to generate interest without the cost and perceived complexity of a microscope. How can we lead people on further?

Our Christmas party is Monday, December 18 with the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. As we celebrate let us not forget the many people who live in hunger, sickness, under threat of violence, in fear, and all other dangers and deprivations. Let us all do what we can to serve the "least of these" now and through 2018.

**Photo on left: Specimen collected and photographed by Michael Pabst. Olympus 60 mm macro lens; stacked 24 images. FOV 18 mm.**

## **Photo of the Month**



**Calcite**, from Caldwell Stone Company Quarry, Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 11/15/17

By Secretary Bob Cooke

President Dave MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM, November 15, 2017. Nine members were present; no past Presidents or guests were present. Dave MacLean encouraged all MNCA members to attend the MSDC/MNCA Anniversary Holiday Banquet on December 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate MSDC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and MNCA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria. Reservations and payment must be made by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Dave also discussed manning of the MNCA demonstration table at the George Mason/NVMC Mineral Show on November 18/19. Dave MacLean and Dave Fryauff both agreed to be present additional hours to cover for the unexpected absence of Erich Grundel.

The joint NVMC/MNCA Holiday Party will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Hrechka stated that MNCA will provide beverages. During the holiday party, MNCA will hold a business meeting to include election of 2018 officers. Nominees are:

President, Dave MacLean  
Vice President, Dave Fryauff  
Treasurer, Michael Pabst  
Secretary, Bob Cooke.

Tom Tucker (via email) relayed that Lance Kearns gave him a hoard (probably a few thousand – the boxes haven't been opened yet) of mounted micros from the old Ulinsky collection, and a large stack of Rock & Mineral and Mineralogical Record magazines. Tom will give these to MNCA. Members discussed how to best utilize this gift. The consensus was to allow MNCA members to buy the items and then donate the proceeds back to James Madison University's Geology Department.

Dave Fryauff invited MNCA members to participate in an upcoming GLMS-MC field trip to the Haines & Kibblehouse Penn-Maryland Materials Quarry in Fulton Township, State Line Chromite District, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. (More information of the quarry can be found on the

MinDat.com website at <https://www.mindat.org/loc-167699.html>) Participants should be at the quarry by 8 AM on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. RSVP to Dave Fryauff no later than Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Pabst gave a Treasurers Report. Recent expenditures included a \$1000 payment to subsidize costs of the MSDC/MNCA Anniversary Banquet and payment to EFMLS for liability insurance coverage in 2018.

Kathy Hrechka previewed the remembrances presentation that she will give at the MSDC/MNCA Anniversary Banquet. The content was well received and some recommendations to improve visibility were made.

Scott Duresky (via Michael Pabst) donated numerous micromounts to the club. Several specimens found new homes that night. Remaining micromounts will be displayed at the MNCA demonstration table at the GMU/NVMC Mineral Show. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

**Membership Dues: 2018**

**Single = \$15. Family = \$20.**

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

### Previous Program Reviewed: 11/15/17

By Bob Cooke

Dave Fryauff presented "Geology, Mining History and Minerals of Chromite Deposits in Maryland and Pennsylvania".

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

Geology club  
Meetings 4th Wed monthly; no July/Aug  
7:30 pm - 10pm  
Long Branch Nature Center  
625 S. Carlin Springs Road  
Arlington, VA 22206  
\* Spring Symposium

**www.dcmicrominerals.org**



### AFMS - EFMLS Congratulations!

Their articles appeared in *The Mineral Mite* 2016

Dave Maclean distributed award certificates at the November 15 meeting from the AFMS and EFMLS. Bulletin Editors' Contest. Award recipients are:

#### AFMS:

**Michael Pabst** - Stichtite Honorable Mention

**Julia Hrechka** – Webmaster 11<sup>th</sup> place

#### EFMLS:

Webmaster Contest Results

\*Second Place Award - **Julia Hrechka**

[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

#### Original Educational Articles

\*Second Place Award - **Michael Pabst**

Stichtite

\*Fifth Place Award - **Michael Pabst**

Crocoite

\*Eighth Place Award - **David MacLean**

How New Minerals are Discovered and Named

#### Non-Technical Articles

\*Tenth Place Award - **Michael Pabst**

A New Lens for Photomicrography:  
Mitutoyo 10X Infinity Focus Objective

\*Honorable Mention - **David Fryauff**

The Unsolved Mystery of "Pharmacolite" From  
Pinto, Maryland

\*Honorable Mention - **Kathy Hrechka**

2016 NFMS/AFMS Show, Treasures of the NW

#### Written Features

\*Fifth Place Award - **Kathy Hrechka**

Snowstorm Olympia Delivers Snow Crystals for  
Photomicrography

\*Seventh Place Award - **Dave Hennessey** Micro  
mounters Anonymous

**The Decade Club: Kathy Hrechka**, Editor of *The Mineral Mite*; Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



### Julia Hrechka Receives Website Awards: AFMS & EFMLS

President, Dave MacLean presented Julia Hrechka, with two awards at the MSDC/MNCA anniversary banquet on December 9. She was awarded 11<sup>th</sup> place from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, along with 2<sup>nd</sup> place from the Eastern Federation for her dedicated work on our website.

[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

Julia is currently working on her Master's in Business Administration at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. She is also working at the St. Bernadette gift shop, as an inventory control specialist and cashier.

Julia has recently been accepted in the Disney college program, where she will begin a seven-month merchandising internship in one of the theme parks in Orlando, beginning January 2018. Even though this opportunity will interrupt her Master's program, she continues to pursue her dreams of working for the Disney Corporation.



## Rheniite

By Michael Pabst



Before we continue with tungsten minerals, this article is a short detour to rhenium. When was the last time you thought about rhenium? Rhenium is used to strengthen alloys in jet engines, and functions as a catalyst in petroleum refining. Rhenium was named for the Latin name of the Rhine River. Rhenium is one of the rarest elements in the Earth's crust. Rhenium was the last non-radioactive element to be discovered; it was not discovered until 1925. Rhenium was isolated as an impurity in the rare earth silicate, Gadolinite ( $\text{REE}_2\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Be}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{10}$ ). There are only a few rhenium minerals (minerals in which rhenium is the dominant metal). In the Periodic Table, rhenium (atomic number 75) is the next element after tungsten (atomic number 74), and they have similar properties. For example, tungsten is the metal with the highest melting point ( $3414^\circ\text{C}$ ), and rhenium has the second highest melting point ( $3185^\circ\text{C}$ ).

Rheniite is rhenium disulfide  $\text{ReS}_2$ , a chemical formula that is reminiscent of Molybdenite  $\text{MoS}_2$  and Tungstenite  $\text{WS}_2$ . Molybdenite and Tungstenite are hexagonal, whereas Rheniite is triclinic, according to the X-ray diffraction data. But looking at the photo below, I seem to see a hexagon! The reddish tinge in the thin plates is real, not an artifact of photography. Thin plates of Rheniite are red-brown translucent.

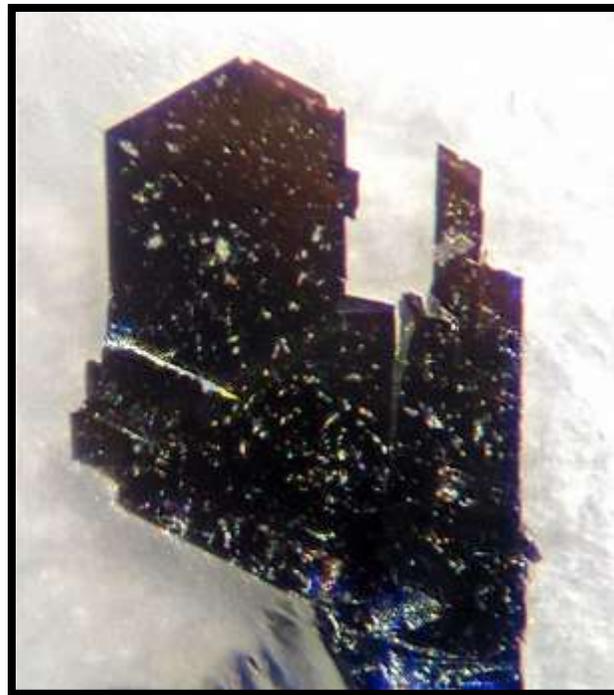
\*\*\*\*\*



### GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

**CI** (a) *crystallization index*. (b) *contour interval*.

**semibituminous coal** (sem"-i-bi-tu'-mi-nous) Coal that ranks between bituminous coal and semianthracite; it is harder and more brittle than bituminous coal. It has a high fuel ratio and burns without smoke. Syn: *smokeless coal*. Cf: *metabituminous coal*.



**Rheniite** from Kudriavy volcano, Iturup Island, Kuril Islands, Sakhalinskaya Oblast', Russia. FOV 1 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

If we look at the entire specimen, we are treated to a vision of *Rhenium Rabbit*! Or perhaps my imagination is overworked. Clearly, it is not a rabbit but a jack-a-lope.

\*\*\*\*\*

**dypingite** (dy'-ping-ite) A white mineral:  $\text{Mg}_5(\text{CO}_3)_4(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

**mictite** (mic'-tite) Coarsely composite rock formed as the result of contamination of a magma, by the incorporation and partial or complete assimilation of country-rock fragments, under conditions of relatively low temperature and probably at relatively high levels in the crust (Dietrich and Mehnert, 1961). Rarely used.

All terms and definitions come from the

[Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by: Rayfract! Check them out at [rayfract.com](http://rayfract.com).

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Photo - Tony Nikischer, Pete Dunn, Dave MacLean

### Passing of Pete Dunn

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Dr. Pete J. Dunn on November 8, 2017, two days short of his 75th birthday. Pete was a museum specialist and mineralogist in the Smithsonian's Department of Mineral Sciences from 1972 until he retired in January 2008. Prior to his arrival at the Museum of Natural History, he was a curator in the Geology Department at Boston University and he served in the United States Air Force. He completed his Master's degree in mineralogy at Boston University and his Ph.D. in mineralogy/geology from the University of Delaware.

During his time at the Smithsonian, Pete was internationally recognized for his research on the mineral collection that resulted in descriptions of 134 new minerals. He had a passion for the complicated and fascinating geology and mineralogy of the Franklin-Sterling Hill mining district in New Jersey, publishing more than 70 scientific papers and a nine-volume monograph that are among the definitive scientific works for that locality for researchers, collectors and the public. In addition to his prolific research activities, Pete was the United States representative to the International Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names for over two decades, and was associate editors for *American Mineralogist*, *Mineralogical Record* and *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*.

Pete retired in January 2008 and immediately returned to the Museum as an Information Desk

volunteer. He said that after so many years working behind the scenes, he wanted a chance to finally meet our visitors. He loved it, and rarely missed a day. My last conversation with Pete was at the visitor desk on the Friday before he died. Pete served as scientist and volunteer in the Museum of Natural History for 45 years. He was fascinated by minerals and thoroughly enjoyed helping lost museum visitors, but perhaps more than anything, he loved a good joke – always carrying in his shirt pocket index cards with punchlines to his favorites. His joyful, and very loud, laughter is now just a memory, but his many contributions to mineralogy and the Museum are forever part of a rich legacy.

Sincerely, Jeffrey E. Post, Ph.D. Smithsonian

### Thank You, Lord by Pete Dunn

Thank You, for the beauty of your earth, for the beauty and symmetry of the mineral crystals within it, for the vividness and depth of color and delicacy of these minerals. Thank You for the gemstones and the ores of metal and all minerals, both useful and ornamental.

But most of all, Thank You for allowing me to find these beautiful minerals, for the pleasure of removing them from the earth. Thank You for allowing me to see them, touch them, and to be astounded by my own relative insignificance when compared to the whole earth.

Some assistance I need, LORD. Please help me to help others see and find this beauty in the earth. Remind me to share these new-found treasures among all my fellowmen as these belong to all. Prevent me from greed and remind me to leave all but what I need within the earth for others who may follow me. Encourage me to encourage others to see these gifts You have placed within the crust of the planet Earth. Thank You, LORD.

---Pete Dunn---

Southeastern Massachusetts Mineral Club 1973  
Adapted from Eastern Federation Directory and Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania, *Keystone Newsletter* July 1973, Vol 22 Number 7

Credit: *Rock Chatter*, The newsletter of the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Inc. Vol 51 December 2017

*The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia and  
The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area  
request the honor of your presence  
to celebrate MSDC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and MCNA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

*Banquet - Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
6 o'clock until 10 o'clock in the evening  
The Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA*

*Featuring a presentation by*

*Dr. Jeffrey E. Post*

*Chair of the Smithsonian Department of Mineral Sciences*

*We express our deep appreciation for  
the leadership of the mineral scientists  
of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History  
in founding and supporting each club.*

*Remembrances by members Tom Tucker & Kathy Hrechka*

*Dinner \$30. ~ Cash bar ~ Free parking  
Special \$99 rate for overnight lodging at the Holiday Inn*

*RSVP*



## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

of the

Mineralogical Society of the  
District of Columbia

1942-2017



## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

of the

Micromineralogists of the  
National Capital Area

1967-2017



**OUR CLOSELY RELATED MISSIONS**

**The Smithsonian Institution**

**1846**

"For the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men"

**Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia**

**1942**

"To promote interest in mineralogy, geology, and related earth sciences, and to encourage mineral collecting"

**Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area**

**1967**

"To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy and related sciences"

The Mineralogical Society  
of the District of Columbia

2017 Officers

President:	David Nanney
Vice President and Program Chair:	David Hennessey
Secretary:	Andrew D. Thompson
Treasurer:	John F. Weidner
Board Member (2014-2017):	Leslie Nanney
Board Member (2015-2018):	Yury Kalish
Board Member (2016-2019):	Kenneth Reynolds
Newsletter Editor:	Stephen Johnson
Hospitality:	Wilson (Ed) Fisher
Website and Social Media:	Casper Voogt and Betty D. Thompson

Past Presidents

Name	Years Served as President
Charles H. Robinson	1941-1945
James H. Benn	1946-1947
John J. Livingston	1948-1950
Phillip R. Cosminsky	1951
Benjamin J. Chromy	1952
John J. Livingston	1953-1954
Paul J. Rees	1954
Antonio C. Bonanno	1955
Paul E. Halter	1956-1957
John O. Griesback *	1958
John Sinkankas	1959
William R. Smith	1960
Paul E. Desautels	1961

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

John R. Cranford	1962
Robert Highbarger	1963
Harry Van Tassel	1964
Grant C. Edwards	1965
Kenneth V. Zahn	1966
Douglas C. Alverson	1967-1968
Robert W. Dunning *	1969
John W. Gruger	1970-1971
Angelo G. Cicolani	1972-1973
William H. Wilkinson	1974
Ellsworth E. Sinclair	1975-1976
Angelo Cicolani	1977-1978
	1979
Cynthia C. Barnes (later Payne) *	1980
Paul E. Smith *	1981-1982
Fred C. Schaefermeyer *	1983-1984
Erich Grundel	1985
James O'Connor	1986-1989
Erich Grundel	1990
Wilson (Ed) Fisher	1991-1996
Jennie Smith *	1996-1997
Wilson (Ed) Fisher	1998-2003
Andrew D. Thompson	2004-2010
Tom Tucker *	2011-2012
Stephen Johnson	2013-2015
David Nanney	2016-present

\* Also served as president of MCNA

**The Micromineralogists  
of the National Capital Area**

Current Officers

President:	David MacLean
Vice President:	David Fryauff
Secretary:	Bob Cooke
Treasurer:	Michael Pabst
Conference Chair:	Kathy Hrechka
Editor/Historian:	Kathy Hrechka
Webmaster:	Julia Hrechka

Past Presidents

Name	Years Served as President
Bob Dunning	1967
Ruth Wertz	1968
John Griesbach *	1969
Cynthia Barnes (later Payne) *	1970-1971
Florence Ruhoff	1972
Quintin Wight	1973-1974
Cynthia Barnes (later Payne) *	1975-1976
Ruth Wertz	1977
Jennie Smith *	1978-1979
Dorothy McCarthy	1980
Ruth Wertz	1981-1987
Cynthia Barnes (later Payne) *	1988-1990
Jennie Smith *	1991
Fred Schaefermeyer *	1992-1993
Paul Smith *	1994-1996
Bruce Gaber	1997
Fred Schaefermeyer *	1998

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Cathy Gaber	1999-2000
Paul Smith *	2001-2003
Tom Tucker *	2004-2009
Robert Clemenzi	2010
David MacLean	2011-present

\* Also served as president of MSDC

### **MSDC/MNCA 75/50 Anniversaries**

By Dave MacLean, MNCA President

We were delighted to celebrate MSDC's 75th anniversary and MNCA's 50th anniversary last Saturday night. David Nanney, President of MSDC presided over the program. He welcomed over eighty attendees, and mentioned some persons who could not attend or were deceased.

Smithsonian geologists Dr. Jeffrey & Ann Post, Dr. Mike & Vicki Wise, Dr. Russ & Melanie Feather, and Dr. Tim & Donna Rose were recognized. University professors Shelley Jaye NVCC, and Dr. Julia Nord GMU also were recognized. Mineral club members who volunteer at the Smithsonian were honored. They included Sue Marcus, Dr. Steve & Marge Noel, Ken Rock, Craig Moore, Kathy Hrechka, Laura Dwyer, and Josh Contois, the Smithsonian geo volunteer coordinator.

Matt Charsky, former AFMS and EFMLS president congratulated both clubs for their historically high board member participation within both federations. Ed & Susan Fisher were also congratulated for their historical dedication to MSDC.

Julia Hrechka received well deserved EFMLS and AFMLS awards for the MNCA website.

Kathy Hrechka, representing the MNCA history told a "slide story" of MNCA including past and present members. Despite 35 years in MNCA, I could not identify many of the persons from before 1981.

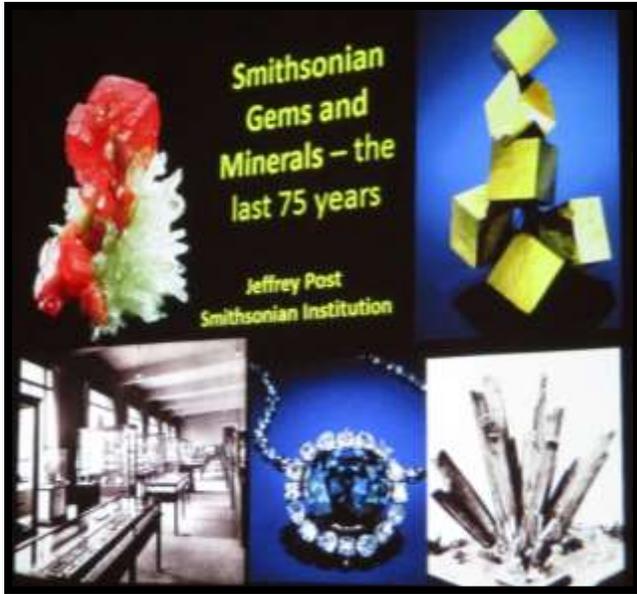
Tom Tucker, representing the MSDC history gave a brief presentation describing archived articles since 1942. He described some of their field trips, including panning for gold at a DC viaduct outlet and being asked to leave by the military.

Honored Guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Post told a slide story "Smithsonian Gems and Minerals - the Last 75 Years". He showed slides of the Mineral Hall in the 1920's through the present. He spoke about the gem collection beginning in 1960, giving us the history of that collection. We learned how the hall underwent several renovations going from a display of minerals per the Dana classification to a more visitor attractive exhibit of the mineral kingdom. He showed the continued display of minerals acquired many years ago such as the quartz sphere, Ontonagon native copper boulder, and gypsum crystals from Naica, Mexico.

MNCA members in attendance included David & Pasimani Fryauff, Michael & Karen Pabst, Kathy, Ken & Julia Hrechka, Dave & Judy Hennessey, Tom Tucker, Kenny & Heather Reynolds, and myself Dave MacLean.

Several persons talked about the next celebration in 2042, MSDC 100th and MNCA 75th.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Dr. Jeffrey and Ann Post, Smithsonian  
Mineral Sciences Department



## Sagenite - sagenitic quartz

By Herwig Pelckmans, Antwerp Belgium  
Atlantic Micromounters Conference Apr 6-7, 2018

Last week we went on a trip to Spain, and since I knew I would have some time to read, I decided to print **The Mineral Mites** of 2016 and 2017 and take them along. Kathy had invited me to have a look at "her babies", and so I did. I honestly have to say I was impressed, and that is even an understatement. I almost immediately fell in love with the very interesting articles, the great photos and the nice layout. To all who contribute(d): THANK YOU for doing so.



I guess many of us are in this hobby because it not only gives you the thrill of making your own discoveries, but it also provides you constantly with learning opportunities. The Mineral Mite brings something new each month, and before I knew it I was hooked. One of the topics I first learned about when paging through the Mineral Mites, is the **GeoWord of the day**. As I was reading more and more newsletters, I started to enjoy them and kind of took the definitions of those GeoWords for granted. It was only when I saw the below definition (mentioned last September), that I realized I should mention a word of caution. The definition read:

*sagenitic quartz (sag-e-nit'-ic) Transparent quartz, colorless to nearly colorless, containing needle-shaped crystals of rutile, tourmaline, goethite, actinolite, or other minerals. See also: rutilated quartz.*

Of course, the key word here is "sagenitic", derived from the word sagenite. It was Horace-Bénédict de Saussure, a Swiss geologist, who first used this word in his books "*Voyages dans les Alpes*" (= Travels in the Alps), printed in 1779–1796. **Horace-Bénédict de Saussure** was a true naturalist, who besides geology, was also very knowledgeable in physics, meteorology and mountaineering, to name a few. Due to his observations and experiments, written down in his *Voyages dans les Alpes*, he is considered to be the father of both alpinism (= mountaineering) and modern meteorology.

Horace-Bénédict de Saussure used the word **sagenite** for **complex reticulated, twinned intergrowths of acicular rutile crystals**, based on the Greek word *σαγμανη* for "a drag net, a fishing net".

Note that this definition specifies we are dealing with intergrowths of acicular rutile crystals that are twinned. As such, the resulting net-like structures have a very typical look. It is clear that, due to the twinning, all those rutile needles are nicely oriented in 3 distinct directions, at a 60-degree angle to each other. Nice photos of rutile variety sagenite can be found on Mindat in the gallery <https://www.mindat.org/gm/8578>

Since the word sagenite obviously refers to a specific net-like structure, it should not be used for "simple" prismatic rutile crystals nor their inclusions in transparent quartz. So even though the definition given to sagenitic quartz is correct (because it was used to describe such items), we should not stimulate the use of these words as defined above. Instead, **sagenitic quartz** should be restricted to **inclusions of rutile variety sagenite in quartz**, like this one <https://www.mindat.org/photo-718048.html>. And when in doubt, just call it rutilated quartz (assuming the included mineral is indeed rutile, of course).

Cheers, Herwig

**Mark your calendar for the next  
Atlantic Miromounters' Conference  
April 6-7, 2018**

Herwig's Biography: page 16 of this Mineral Mite

Herwig's Programs:

1. The Many Faces of Fluorite
2. Belgium and Mineralogy
3. Schoep, from Fred Flintstone to Bob the Builder

Location: Holiday Inn, Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA (same location as last year) Details are posted on our club website [www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

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

### AFMS Code of Ethics:

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



Eastern Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

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

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

### Geology Events:

#### December

**18: Holiday party; Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area and the Northern Virginia Mineral Club 6:30–10pm**

Long Branch Nature Center,  
625 S Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA



**Snow Policy: If Arlington County schools are closed on the day of our meeting, we are cancelled too.**

#### March

**42<sup>st</sup> Annual Micromount Symposium of the Leidy Microscopical Society**

Saturday, March 10, 2018: 9am – 3pm

Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA

Contact: Don McAlarnen [don.mcalarnen@hpe.com](mailto:don.mcalarnen@hpe.com)

Home phone (610) 584-1364



**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference**  
**April 6-7, 2018**

**Featured speaker; Herwig Pelckmans  
from Antwerp, Belgium**

Herwig Pelckmans was born in the summer of '62 and grew up on the outskirts of Antwerp (not Antwerp, New York, but Antwerp in Belgium). When he was 10, his parents gave him a comic book, on the evolution of life on earth. One section dealt with paleontologists finding dinosaur remains in Mongolia. It did not take long for Herwig to find large bones and teeth himself. The fact that they later turned out to be whale bones and shark teeth, instead of dinosaur fossils, did not really turn him down; the collecting bug had already taken over.



Ever since, his travels and collecting trips have brought him and his family all over Europe and the United States, and even to some countries in Africa and Asia. Besides, he loves to write mineralogical articles and give talks for mineral clubs. Since last year, he is the president of the "MKA" (= the Mineralogical Society of Antwerp; one of the most vivid mineral clubs in the world). Herwig is also promoting the use of the polarizing microscope and the spindle stage as inexpensive and reliable tools for mineral collectors who want to identify their unknowns in a scientific way.

He retired from his job as an officer and a database administrator for the Belgian Army in 2013 and soon realized life is even more hectic when you are retired. He lives with his loving wife and three kids in the small town of Hasselt in Belgium.

Programs: 1. The Many Faces of Fluorite 2. Belgium and Mineralogy 3. Schoep, from Fred Flintstone to Bob the Builder

Location: Holiday Inn, Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA (same location as last year)

**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.

Pres: Dave MacLean, dbmaclean@maclean-fogg.com  
Vice Pres: David Fryauff, fryauffd@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Bob Cooke, rdotcooke@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Michael Pabst, Michaeljpabst@yahoo.com  
Editor/Historian: Kathy Hrechka, kshrechka@msn.com  
Website: Julia Hrechka, dcmicrominerals@gmail.com  
Conference: 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 Affiliation

**Dues:** MNCA Membership Dues for 2016  
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)  
**Payable to 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 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.**  
**The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 10th.**  
**No newsletter July/August**

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



- \* Dave MacLean
- \* Bob Cooke
- \* Michael Pabst
- \* Dr. Jeffrey Post
- \* Herwig Pelckmans

