



MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite



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January 2018

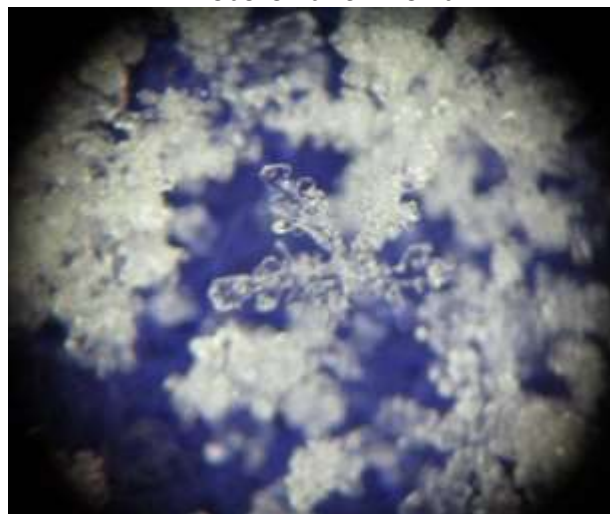
January 24 Time: 7:30 pm – 10 pm

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

Program: “British Minerals from the Natural History Museum in London”

Michael Pabst will share his recent trip to the British Museum for January meeting. His talk will be a variation of a talk he presented at the Paul Desautels Micromount Conference in Baltimore last October. A two-man, four-camera assault on the vast mineral gallery yielded some surprisingly good pictures (out of thousands taken). Photos from the museum will be supplemented with some high-magnification shots of corresponding British minerals from Michael's micromount collection. Michael hopes that everyone, even those who attended the Baltimore conference, will enjoy this special view of one of the world's greatest mineral collections.

Photo of the Month



Snow crystal photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka
Dec. 9, 2017 in Alexandria, Virginia

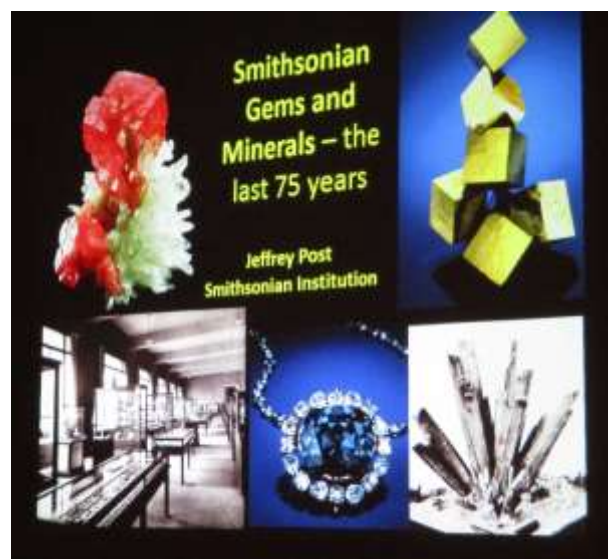
President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean

I wish all of us a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Gem Lapidary Mineralogical Society of Montgomery County, GLMSMC show on March 17-18, 2018 is another opportunity to demonstrate the wonders of micro minerals.

MSDC and MNCA did a super job to celebrate our anniversaries on December 9; MSDC's 75th and MNCA's 50th. We celebrated with a banquet and talk on 75 years at the Smithsonian by Dr. Jeffrey Post. Remembrances were presented by Tom Tucker, representing MSDC, and Kathy Hrechka representing MNCA. Julia Hrechka received both AFMS and EFMLS awards to for the MNCA website.



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 12/18/17

By Acting Secretary Dave MacLean

President David MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the combined MNCA and Northern Virginia Mineral Club Christmas Party.

No past MNCA guest except David Nanney, president of MSDC were present.

By acclamation the MNCA members present elected the following officers for 2018:

- * President, David MacLean
- * Vice President, David Fryauff
- * Secretary, Bob Cooke
- * Treasurer, Michael Pabst

By motion duly made and seconded, the MNCA members adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30PM Wednesday January 24, 2018 at the Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington.

Membership Dues: 2018

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

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

Previous Program Reviewed: Holiday Party 12/18/17

By Dave Maclean

Members from the Northern Virginia Mineral Club and the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area celebrated a festive holiday party. Ti Meredith and Sue Marcus graciously handed out door prizes. Geology fellowship, food, and laughter were plentiful during the evening. Thank your organizer, Holly.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Hrechka



Sue



Photo below: Rick Reiber and guest Lisa won the “geology tree”, where each ornament was a rock, mineral, or fossil.



NVMC/MNCA Joint Holiday Party

By Dave Hennessey, Geo membership of 52 years

Every year, for many years now, NVMC and MNCA have jointly gathered to celebrate the holiday season with a banquet. On Monday, Dec 18th, the two clubs did so again, and a grand time was had by all. My sincere appreciation goes to the members who organized the event – setting up tables, arranging for foods, plates, utensils, decorations (including Cynthia Payne’s crystallography tree), etc. A lot of unheralded work goes into these events and I salute those who made the effort, so all could enjoy the evening.



Ti and Reindeer Sue award Dave “Most Senior Geo Club Membership of the Year – 52 years”

MNCA conducted a short business meeting before the feasting, electing its officers for 2018. Congratulations to our officers for 2018 – David MacLean, President; David Fryauff, Vice President; Robert Cooke, Secretary; and Michael Pabst, Treasurer, who were installed by unanimous consent. Following the short business meeting, it was time for the main event – overeating. The clubs provided the main course (pulled pork and chicken with various sauces) and drinks, with the members all bringing side dishes and desserts. It was entirely too easy to eat entirely too much.

Following the feasting, door prizes were awarded, and a member gift exchange was conducted. I very much enjoyed the micromounts I received in the gift exchange and hope the members receiving the micromounts I brought were similarly pleased. I also received a gift as the most senior member at the gathering – that’s senior in terms of club membership years, not age! I joined NVMC when I was in the 7th grade – 52 years ago. My seniority gift included fossilized belemnites, which I am happy to report are somewhat older than me!

Let’s do it all again next year (but no seniority gifts)!
Happy Holidays!!



Crystallography Tree designed by MNCA charter member, Cynthia Payne.

Stolzite

By Michael Pabst



Continuing with tungsten minerals, Stolzite is lead tungstate $PbWO_4$. There is a series between Stolzite and Wulfenite, which is lead molybdate $PbMoO_4$. I have two specimens of Stolzite in my collection, one from the Black Pine Mine in Montana, and one from Tsumeb in Namibia. Like Wulfenite and Scheelite, Stolzite has tetragonal symmetry $4/m$. I like this Stolzite diagram in Mineralien Atlas:

www.mineralienatlas.de/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Stolzit. Select the diagram S291ag.

My Black Pine Mine specimen shows white-yellow fluorescence with both long-wave and short-wave ultraviolet light. This fluorescence is like that of Scheelite, but, on Mindat, Scheelite is listed as “?” or doubtful at the Black Pine Mine. Although Stolzite and Wulfenite sometimes look similar, Wulfenite is not listed at the Black Pine Mine. So, I am inclined to believe the label, and accept that the specimen pictured below is Stolzite, not Scheelite or Wulfenite. The specimen also features Hübnerite (not shown, but wait, it will appear in an article soon).



Stolzite (light tan) with Quartz, from Black Pine Mine, Black Pine Ridge, John Long Mountains, Philipsburg District, Granite County, Montana. FOV 5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using Olympus E-M5 Mark II camera with Olympus 60 mm macro lens, focus stacking of 8 images.

For comparison, here is a good Mindat photo of Scheelite from the Black Pine Mine: www.mindat.org/photo-390979.html.

The Stolzite in my specimen from Tsumeb is not fluorescent, but the dark crystals show red fluorescence. I don't know what the dark crystals are. Scheelite is rare at Tsumeb (only 2 Mindat pictures of micros), but Wulfenite is common at Tsumeb. Here I must trust the label that I have Stolzite, not Wulfenite.

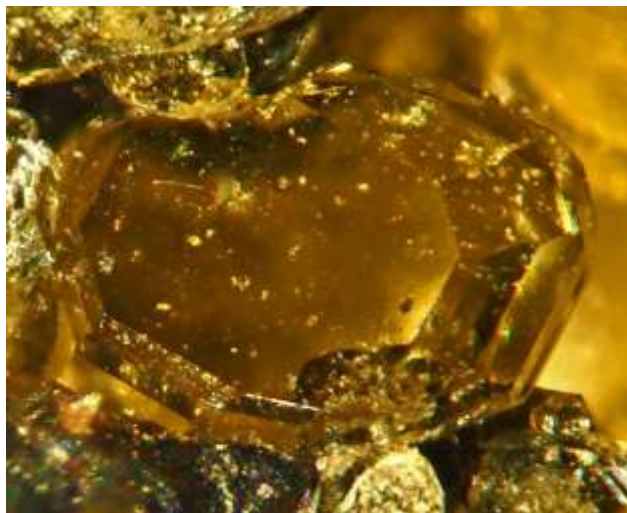


Stolzite (yellow) and a dark unknown from Tsumeb, Namibia. FOV 8 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using 60 mm macro lens to focus stack 26 images.

Continued next page

Stolzite continued

Here is a closeup of one of the Stolzite crystals from Tsumeb:



Close-up of a Stolzite crystal from Tsumeb. FOV 1.5 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst. Stacked 10 images taken with stereo microscope.

On Mindat there are some nice photos of Stolzite. If you click on the links below, they will take you directly to photos I have selected for your enjoyment. For example, there is a nice specimen of Stolzite from Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia, that shows the true symmetry of Stolzite:

www.mindat.org/photo-524402.html.

Here are two nice photos of colorless Stolzite from Le Mazet vein, Échassières, Ébreuil, Allier, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-460850.html>

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-461270.html>

Wulfenite not listed for this French location.

From the famous Clara Mine in the Black Forest of Germany:

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-77551.html> and

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-268619.html> and

<https://www.mindat.org/photo-460151.html>. Wulfenite is rare at the Clara Mine.

There is an isomorph of Stolzite called Raspite, which is also lead tungstate, $PbWO_4$. Stolzite is tetrahedral, whereas Raspite is monoclinic. Raspite will be featured in my next article.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

azoprote (a-zo-pro'-ite) A black orthorhombic mineral of the *ludwigite* group: $(Mg,Fe^{2+})_2(Fe^{3+},Ti,Mg)BO_5$.

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*.

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.



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

A Visit to the Green Fire Mine, CA Clear Creek Management Area

By Herwig Pelckmans

Field photos courtesy of Delilah Sabba

*Article adapted from The Bay Area Mineralogists
newsletter September 2016*

One day in June 2016, six BAM members made a collecting trip to the Green Fire Mine. Here is a short trip report and some new data about this locality and its minerals.

First of all, this site was known on Mindat as "Green-fire Mine", but after Chuck questioned the spelling and David checked the old claim papers, we now know the correct name for the locality is "Green Fire Mine", so we had the Mindat page corrected.

After getting together in Hollister, we teamed up and drove to the hills. The weather was still nice, but clouds were rolling in, and in the distance, we even saw some rain. The higher we got, the more the clouds were coming up, and by the time we arrived at the collecting site, we even got a few drops of rain.



The rugged trail to the Green Fire Mine.

The newbies were told the place was well known for garnets in all hues of yellow and green. Delilah got lucky soon after she got to the collecting area. On the other hand, when Herwig started looking, he could not even find any! First, he thought his vision was still influenced by too much "Two Buck Chuck" from the night before, but when ST shouted he had a hard time

finding any garnets, Herwig felt much better. Apparently, sunshine is what really makes those garnet crystals sparkle!

The sun was indeed a great help, every time it shone through the clouds. All of us were able to collect rocks with andradite garnets up to 5 mm on and/or in them. They were frequently associated with prismatic needles and/or laths of colorless to whitish diopside up to an inch long, most of the time sitting on a bed of small crystals of a chlorite group mineral (most likely clinocllore), on a matrix made up of serpentine minerals. Thin veins of an asbestiform mineral (most likely chrysotile) were easily recognizable on the outside of most rocks, due to the "cats eye effect" of all those crystals that had grown parallel in the veins; especially when the light hit the veins at the right angle. Both the dumps and the cliff yielded specimens that were taken home. And Chuck even found some ... garden rocks!

One of the nice things about field collecting, is sharing your goodies with others. Peggy had brought a very tasty homemade fruit salad, Delilah had juicy fresh grapes and bread sticks, Herwig provided some yummy Belgian cheese and chocolate, Chuck had canned peaches and the ever-present Twinkies (as well as "the food of kings"), ST had us sample his "Trail mix" and David shared his gigantic Safeway sandwich with whoever wanted a piece. Considering all the food we brought and ate, it's a good thing the trip only lasted one day!



Chuck, Peggy, and Herwig enjoying their lunch.

One of the things that caught our eyes, were the parallel growth of some of the garnets. Normally garnets grow in a complete chaotic way, showing absolutely

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no preferential orientation. Here, however, every now and then the garnets had grown in rows on the matrix, one right after the other, forming strings of garnet on the matrix. On some specimens we found areas where the garnet crystals all had the exact same orientation. Herwig thinks this might be due to epitaxial growth of the garnets on the (already oriented) asbestos (chrysotile?) veins, but more research needs to be done to prove this.

Around 7 PM we called it a day, loaded up the trucks and left the area. Back in Hollister by dark, we were just in time to order some Mexican food before they closed for the day. We enjoyed our evening meal together, all around one table, talking more rocks while tackling our burritos. Everybody agreed it had been a nice day, with plenty of promising material that would hopefully trim and clean up nicely.

At home the next day, while studying some of the material through the scope, we saw that many of the garnets actually have diopside needles going all the way through them. Herwig also noticed small (up to 1 mm), somewhat rounded, black octahedrons on what looked like a greenish chrysocolla. The latter is most likely lizardite, whereas the former ... would not that be magnetite? We were able to isolate a crystal; it stuck to a needle and was influenced by a magnet (it made the crystal move around the needle), but it did not stick to the magnet! David thought it to be chromite, since it was not really magnetic (since it did not jump to the magnet). A slightly larger crystal was isolated and taken home by David to analyze. To give you an idea of what the material looked like, this photo on Mindat shows a very similar looking specimen: <http://www.mindat.org/photo-483202.html>.

A few days later, David sent us the following email: "It wasn't easy, but I was able to run an XRD test on the very small octahedral crystal that Herwig gave me. As I had assumed, it is chromite. This was a reasonable guess, because of the shape, slight magnetism, color, and serpentine matrix.

The XRD pattern was a good match to a natural sample in PDF reference pattern, "04-015-0371", which had the following composition: Mg_{0.4} Ti_{0.026} V_{0.008} Cr_{1.187} Mn_{0.01} Fe_{0.915} Ni_{0.004} Al_{0.45} O₄. Elemental analysis was not done on our sample, so it may not be the same, but the structure is very close.

Other spinels and even the normal magnesiochromite reference patterns did not match well at all.

The reference for the natural chromite is: "Crystal chemistry and structural refinement of chromites from different chromitite layers and xenoliths of the Bushveld Complex". Lenaz D., Braidotti R., Princi- valle F., Garuti G., Zaccarini F., Eur. J. Mineral. 19, 599,609 (2007)."

Chromite had not been previously reported from this locality, so that was one more reason to write this article. According to Pemberton (1983), chromite is quite rare in California, since almost all so-called chromite is actually magnesiochromite (more Mg than Fe in the composition). So, even though the octahedrons are very small, we consider this to be an interesting find.



Demantoid #1 12x17cm



Demantoid #1 closeup

Continued next page

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Demantoid #2 7x4cm



Demantoid #3 closeup



Demantoid #2 closeup



Demantoid #4 10x9cm



Demantoid #3 4.5x4.0cm



Demantoid #5 stack photo 4mm wide crystal

Demantoid photos courtesy of Dan Evanich

Rudy Tschernich RIP

By Julian Gray

It is with profound sadness that I report the passing of Rudy Tschernich on December 26, 2017. Rudy was born in Snohomish, Washington in 1945 and developed a love for mineral collecting with an exceptional passion for the zeolite group minerals that were so prevalent in his home in the Pacific Northwestern United States. His collection of nearly 12,000 zeolites from worldwide localities, most of them personally collected, was eventually donated to the Rice Northwest Museum of rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, Oregon. Rudy served on the board of the Rice Museum before being invited by Museum co-founder, Sharleen Harvey, to join the museum as full-time curator following his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service in 2003. Rudy served as curator of the Rice Museum until 2011.

Rudy was a dedicated field collector and was involved in many new discoveries, mostly famously those of the Neer City road site in Goble, Oregon where three zeolites new to science were discovered in a small dig site. These minerals included boggsite, cowlesite, and a mineral that was initially confused with apophyllite. That latter mineral turned out to be a new one that was named in Rudy's honor: tschernichite (Boggs, et al., 1993.)

Rudy was involved in recording the mineralogy of many zeolite locations, but arguably his greatest contributions to science was his 1992 book, *Zeolites of the World*, in which Rudy meticulously documented thousands of zeolite localities. Rudy was instrumental in founding of the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy, which honored him in 2000 with the Nobel Witt award for his selfless contributions. He was recognized by the Rice Northwest Museum of the Rocks and Minerals which named its Northwest Gallery in his honor.

Rudy was active to the very end. His last project was re-photographing his entire zeolite collection using modern photomicrography techniques. His legacy lives on through his collections, his writings, his photographs, the museum gallery that bears his name, and the lives he touched. He was also modest and wished no service be held in his memory. Nevertheless, we are grateful for his contributions.



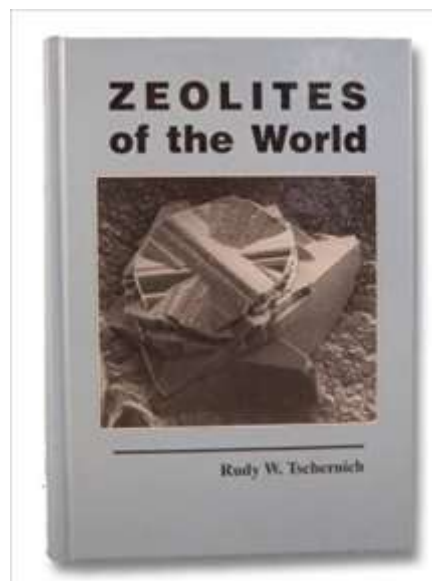
Tschernichite: $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{16} \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Neer Road, Goble, Columbia County, Oregon, USA
Photomicrograph by Jason Smith

Respectfully, Julian Gray,
Executive director Rice Northwest Museum of
Rocks and Minerals Hillsboro, Oregon

<http://www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org>

Boggs, R.C., Howard, D.G., Smith, J.V., Klein, G.L.,
(1993) Tschernichite, a new zeolite from Goble,
Columbia county, Oregon
American Mineralogist: 78: 822-826

Julian Gray was our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference speaker 20???. The obituary was brought to our attention by Herwig Pelckmans, our AMC speaker for 2018.



Geology in the News:

Discovery of a meteoritic ejecta layer containing unmelted impactor fragments at the base of Paleocene lavas, Isle of Skye, Scotland

The researchers were examining the base of a 60-million-year-old lava flow when they discovered the osbornite. Because the mineral form was unmelted, it is likely to be an original piece of the meteorite, according to the geologists.

The area where the discovery was made is steep and very boggy, which may have deterred previous researchers from exploring the site, according to Dr Simon Drake, associate lecturer at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. “We were sinking in up to our thighs. I distinctly recall saying to Andy Beard, ‘This had better be worth it.’ It was worth it,” he said, in the statement.

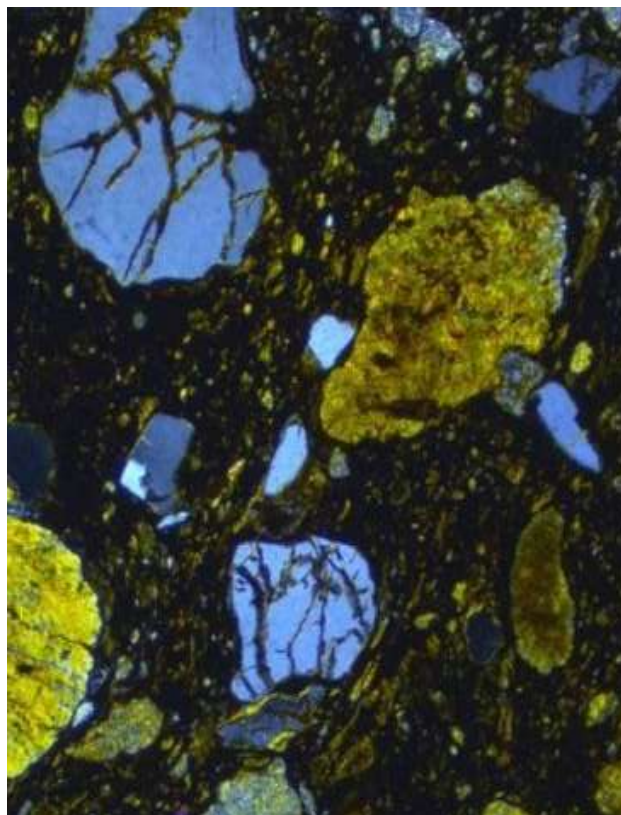
Experts say that the find raises questions about where the meteorite hit and whether its impact triggered an outpouring of volcanic lava that started at the same time. A second site 7km away also revealed the same unusual mineral make-up in what is known as “ejecta” — material ejected from a crater. The scientists’ findings have been published in the journal *GeoScienceWorld*.

Abstract: Evidence for meteorite impacts in the geological record may include the presence of shocked minerals, spherule layers, and geochemical anomalies. However, it is highly unusual to find unmelted crystals from the actual impactor within an ejecta layer. Here we detail the first recorded occurrence of vanadium-rich osbornite (TiVN) on Earth, from two sites on Skye, northwest Scotland, which are interpreted as part of a meteoritic ejecta layer. TiVN has only previously been reported as dust from comet Wild 2, but on Skye it has been identified as an unmelted phase.

Both ejecta layer sites also contain niobium-rich osbornite (TiNbN), which has not previously been reported. An extraterrestrial origin for these deposits is strongly supported by the presence of reidite (a high-pressure zircon polymorph), which is only found naturally at sites of meteorite impact. Barringerite

[(Fe,Ni)₂P], baddeleyite (ZrO₂), alabandite (MnS), and carbon-bearing native iron spherules, together with planar deformation features and diaplectic glass in quartz, further support this thesis.

We demonstrate through field relationships and Ar-Ar dating that the meteorite strike occurred during the mid-Paleocene. This is the first recorded mid-Paleocene impact event in the region and is coincident with the onset of magmatism in the British Paleogene Igneous Province (BPIP). The Skye ejecta layer deposits provoke important questions regarding their lateral extent at the base of the BPIP and the possibility of their presence elsewhere beneath the much larger North Atlantic Igneous Province.



‘Alien’ mineral discovery by scientists on the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

Picture: Simon Drake/University of London

Open link *GeoScienceWorld* for entire article

<https://doi.org/10.1130/G39452.1>

Credit; Simon M. Drake, Andrew D. Beard, Adrian P. Jones, David J. Brown, A. Dominic Fortes, Ian L. Millar, Andrew Carter, Jergus Baca, Hilary Downes (Geology 2017) DOI: Published 12.12.2017

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**

(AFMS)
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

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

Geology Events:

January

22: Northern Virginia Mineral Club meeting
7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center,
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA

24: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area meeting 7:30–10pm
Long Branch Nature Center,
625 South 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

**42st Annual Micromount Symposium
of the Leidy Microscopical Society**

Saturday, March 10, 2018: 9am – 3pm

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



**MICROMOUNTERS BRING MICROSCOPE,
MICROS AND EXTENSION CORD**

SWAP-SELL-LEARN

TABLE SPACE \$12.00 (1/2 of 8 FOOT TABLE)

Lunch will be provided

RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES CLUB SALES

TABLE—MINERALS AND SUPPLIES

**Reservations: Send Check for \$12.00 per table space, make checks payable to;
Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Rd, East Norriton,
PA 19403 (610) 584-1364**

Email: Don.mcalarnen@hpe.com

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

EFMLS Wildacres - May 21 – 27, 2018

By Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Committee Chair

And... drumroll please, our Speaker-in-Residence will be the always exciting and popular, **Helen Serras-Herman**. Helen comes to us from Arizona and will be accompanied by her wonderful husband Andy. She's an award winning glyptographer (gem carver) who also creates one-of-a-kind jewelry utilizing a variety of materials including carved gemstones, beads, silver and gold findings, and carved and cast silver portraits. A few of her creations can be seen on her website <gemartcenter.com>. Helen is passionate about her work, and that passion translates into her always interesting talks.



I just received the list and descriptions for our spring 2018 classes and I'm quite excited. In addition to our fabulous guest speaker Helen Serras-Herman, we have a wide selection of offerings including several offered by outstanding teachers who are new to us. In addition, some of our popular classes will be offered as well. Classes & Instructors:

- * Beaded Bezel - Mia Schulman
- * Knitted Wire & Bead Bracelet - Mia Schulman
- * Cabochons – Basic - Bernie Emery
- * Cold Connections I - Morning Sherrod
- * Cold Connections II - Morning Sherrod
- * Cabochons – Intermediate - Bernie Emery
- * Electro-Etching – Beginner - Micah Kirby
- * Faceting - Steve Weinberger
- * Loop and Loop Chains – Beginner - Chuck Bruce
- * Loop and Loop Chains – Advanced - Chuck Bruce
- * Silversmithing – Basic - Richard Meszler
- * Silversmithing – Intermediate - Richard Meszler
- * Viking Knit - Val Johnson

Have you ever been to a Wildacres before? What are you waiting for? In our view, you cannot find a better bargain and a better week combining talks by our speaker-in-residence, a variety of classes from which to choose, an activity day so you can go off campus and explore the surrounding area, an always fun auction and much, much more. Wildacres is a private retreat located on its own mountain just off the Blue Ridge Parkway about an hour north of Asheville, NC.

There are no TV's blaring car horns, or city noises to disturb the sounds of laughter, music (if there's a musician's class on the mountain with us), and bird chirps.

Tuition for the week-long session is just \$425 per person. This fee includes room and board, wonderful meals each day, instruction by our outstanding teachers etc. The only additional charge will be for the materials used in the class or classes you sign-up for. The class offerings for spring are on page 8 and a registration form is included in this issue on page 9. Please fill it out, write your check and send it to our Registrar, Suzie Milligan on January 1 or shortly thereafter so you can be a part of the fun in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

Breaking News: Dates for our fall session have just been received. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us the week of September 3 - 9. Info coming next month.

Register www.amfed.org/efmls tab Wildacres



A chair with a view is reserved for you.
Article adapted from EFMLS Nov & Dec newsletters

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) Details are posted on our club website www.dcmicrominerals.org

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
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