



MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org
The Mineral Mite



Vol. 52 – No. 1

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists

January 2019

January 23 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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

Program: Barwood Micros

By Dave Fryauff, Vice president

MNCA members will view a DVD of the late Dr. Henry Barwood's micromineral photos. Dave would like to show & discuss the many microminerals from Dr. Barwood's favorite collecting places in Alabama and Arkansas.



Workshop: C. Carter Rich Micros. Members will get a chance to collect micros from Carter's collection, which were previously introduced by Erich Grundel at the November meeting.

Photo of the Month



Barwoodite Big Rock Quarry or 3M Quarry, Little Rock, Arkansas

President's Message:

By: Dave MacLean

Happy and productive new year to all of us. My message I ask that all year long we seek to serve and support the persons around us who are hungry, ill in body and mind and otherwise in difficulty.



Let us celebrate the contributions and efforts of all who made MNCA successful in 2018. Thank you.

I look forward to our meeting 7:30 PM Wednesday 23 January 2019. Again, we have an opportunity to show off micro minerals at the Gem, Lapidary and Mineralogical Society of Montgomery County show on March 16-17 at the Montgomery Co. fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD.

Our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference is Friday evening April 5 and all-day Saturday April 6, 2019 at the Holiday Inn on US 1 Alexandria, VA. Author, Dr. Robert Lauf will be our featured speaker. Details p. 5

Henry "Bumpi" Barwood 1947 – 2016

Dr. Henry Barwood, affectionately known as "Bumpi", was a professional mineralogist and teacher, who turned his skills in both fields towards helping amateur mineralogists, particularly micromounters, in every possible way. With an insatiable thirst for knowledge, he gained his doctorate at Virginia tech, then went on to expand his capabilities, working with phosphates in Florida, syenites in Arkansas, and clay minerals for ceramics in PA.

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 12/17/18

By Bob Cooke, Secretary

Members of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club (NVMC) and the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA) met at the Long Branch Nature Center on December 17th at 6:30 PM for their joint Holiday Party. After a short presentation by Dr. Michael Wise of the Smithsonian Institution, members enjoyed a Holiday Dinner organized by Holly Perlick and Marie Johnston.



Previous Program Reviewed: 12/17/18

By Bob Cooke, Secretary

Dr. Michael Wise, a Mineral Science Department geologist of the Smithsonian Institution presented "The adventures of "shopping" at the Denver Show and the Tucson Show" for new museum acquisitions.



Photos courtesy: Amanda Parker NVMC

No MNCA meeting occurred at the Annual Holiday Party, therefore unresolved business will be addressed at the January 2019 meeting, including officer elections.

2019 MNCA Officer Election Notice

- *President – Dave MacLean
- *Vice-president – David Fryauff
- *Secretary – Bob Cooke
- *Treasurer – Michael Pabst

Membership Dues: 2019

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

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



Bixbyite

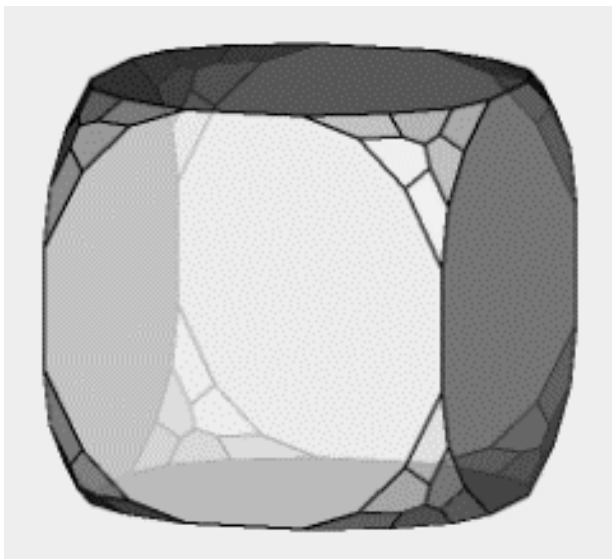
By Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

For our second black manganese mineral, I have chosen Bixbyite, $Mn^{3+}_2O_3$. There is usually some substitution of Fe^{3+} for Mn^{3+} . Although Bixbyite has been found all over the world, many beautiful shiny black examples of Bixbyite have been found in the Thomas Range in Utah, associated with golden Topaz ($Al_2(SiO_4)(F,OH)_2$), Pseudobrookite (Fe_2TiO_5), Hematite (Fe_2O_3), red Beryl ($Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$) and red Spessartine ($Mn^{2+}_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$). Bixbyite crystallizes in the cubic system, often as symmetrical cubes with octahedral modifications, but Bixbyite is in the isometric-diploidal class $m\bar{3}$, so it sometimes shows some less symmetrical faces, as illustrated in the drawing below.



Bixbyite was named after Maynard Bixby (1853-1935), a Utah prospector and mineral author, who discovered Bixbyite in 1897. The type locality is Maynard's Claim (Pismire Knolls), Thomas Range, Juab County, Utah. Bixbyite is metallic black and opaque.

Here is a photo of my catalog number 768, which is a suite of four minerals from the Thomas Range in one plastic box. The four minerals are Bixbyite, Pseudobrookite, golden Topaz, and red Spessartine (another manganese mineral). (My red Beryl from the Thomas Range was pictured in the May 2018 *Mineral Mite*.)



Crystal drawing of Bixbyite showing asymmetrical faces at the corners of the cube.

This drawing is Kristall Nr. B154ai by Ulrich Baumgärtl in *Mineralein Atlas*: <https://www.mineralatlas.eu/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Bixbyit>. There are good photos of Bixbyite on this same web page.



Bixbyite, Pseudobrookite, golden Topaz, and Spessartine, Thomas Range, Juab Co., UT. FOV 28 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst, using an Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II camera with 60 mm macro lens, using focus bracketing, and stacking 23 images with CombineZP.

Continued next page

Bixbyite continued

Here are three closeup views of the Bixbyite crystal from different angles:



Bixbyite, Thomas Range, Juab County, Utah. FOV 8-10 mm, cube is 5 mm. Photos by Michael Pabst, using stereomicroscope, stacking 11 to 16 images each.



Here is a photo by Dave Richerson of cubic Bixbyite perched on a golden Topaz from Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-30155.html.

Next time we will look at two other manganese oxides, Pyrolusite $Mn^{4+}O_2$ and Manganite $Mn^{3+}(O, OH)$. These two are specific well-characterized minerals. But note that there are many specimens in collections labeled “psilomelane” or “wad”, which refer to unidentified black manganese oxide minerals, either hard (5-6) (psilomelane) or soft (1-4) (wad). Because I am elitist, I don’t admit psilomelane or wad into my collection!

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference
April 5-6, 2019**

Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Virginia
Speaker, Dr. Robert Lauf of Tennessee
Published author of Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium



GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

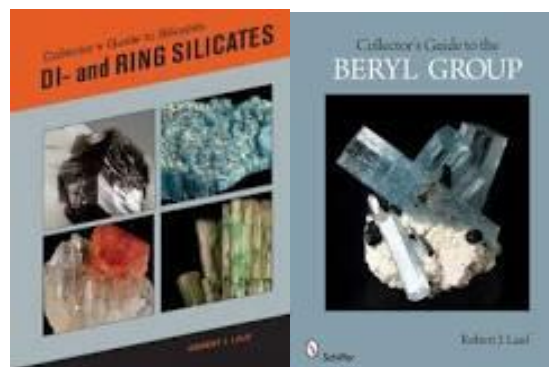
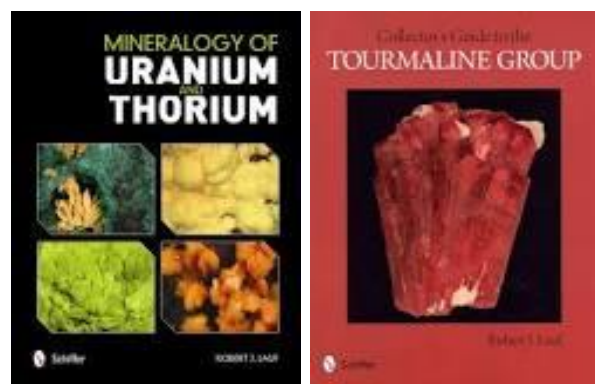
ankaramite (an-ka'-ra-mite) An olivine-bearing basanite containing numerous pyroxene (usually clinopyroxene) phenocrysts, the former being more abundant than the latter, in a fine-grained groundmass composed of clinopyroxene microlites and calcic plagioclase. It was named by Lacroix in 1916 from Ankaramy, Malagasy.

konderite (kon'-de-rite) A metallic gray hexagonal mineral closely related to inaglyite:
 $PbCu_3(Rh,Pt,Ir)_8S_{16}$.

GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by:
EnviroTech! envirotechonline.com

Choices of topics: Choose three

- *Mineralogy of Uranium and Thorium
- *Orthosilicates
- *Di- and Ring Silicates
- *The Garnet Group
- *The Tourmaline Group
- *Titania: Rutile, Anatase, and Brookite
- *Industrial and Consumer Uses of Minerals
- *The Zeolite Group
- *The Mica Group
- *The Layer Titanosilicates (astrophyllite, bafertisite, and nafertisite groups)



Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

AFMS Purpose: 2018

Purpose of the AFMS: To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Address corrections and changes Subscription Information, Distribution Questions: Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

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<central_office@amfed.org> 410-833-7926
Content – Letters Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor: Carolyn Weinberger PO Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org> 410-833-7926

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)
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**Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies**

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

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

**Please read the EFMLS bulletin attached in
original monthly email to MNCA members.**

Geology Events:

January 2019

2: Mineralogical Society of DC – MSDC meeting
Smithsonian NMNH, Constitution Avenue lobby
7:30 pm to head up to the Cathy Kerby Room.
www.mineralogicalsoocietyofdc.org

**14: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Montgomery County, Maryland - GLMS-MC**
7:30 pm - Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation
Drive, Rockville, MD
www.glmsmc.com

**16: The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of
Washington, DC - GLMS-DC meeting**
7:00-10pm - Chevy Chase Community Center,
5601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Chevy Chase, MD
www.glmsdc.org

**23: Micromineralogists of the National Capital
Area - MNCA meeting**
7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA
www.dcmicrominerals.org

28: Northern VA Mineral Club - NVMC meeting
7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA
www.novamineralclub.org

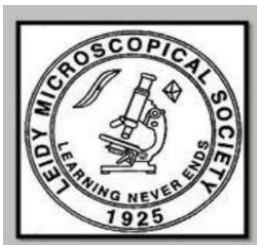
**Snow Policy: If Arlington County
schools are closed on the day of our
meeting, we are cancelled too.**

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

43rd Leidy Microscopical Society MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM

By Don McAlarnen

****NEW LOCATION****
Advent Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Rd
Richboro, PA 18954



Two Days
Friday March 8, 2019
noon to 6pm
&
Saturday March 9
9am to 6pm
(Lunch provided on
Saturday)

TABLE SPACE \$20.00
RAFFLE DOOR PRIZES

CLUB SALES TABLE - MINERALS - SUPPLIES



Reservations/ Admission: Send
Check for \$20.00 checks payable to;
Don McAlarnen,
916 Senator Rd, East Norriton, PA
19403
(610) 584-1364

Email: donmcarnen@outlook.com

*Hampton Inn, 1000 Stoney Hill Rd, Yardley, Pa.
19067 (215) 860-1700 (at I-295 & Rt. 332 exit approx.

8. Hotels:

5, miles from show)

* Brick Hotel, 1 Washington Av., Newtown, Pa. 18940
(267) 685-6443 (in Newtown, approx. 5.5 miles from
show)

*Temperance House, 5 S State St, Newtown, Pa. 18940
(215) 944-8050

*Motel 6, 265 E. Street Rd., Warminster, Pa 18974
(215) 674-2200

* Holiday Inn Express, 240 Veterans Way, Warminster,
Pa. 18974 (215) 443-4300

*Wyndham, 4700 E. Street Rd, Feasterville, Pa. 19053
(215) 364-2000

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area

Meeting: The 4th Wed. of each month 7:30 -10 p.m.
Long Branch Nature Center (No meetings June & July)
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, fryauffdj@gmail.com
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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 2019
\$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 1st of each month.

The Mineral Mite will be emailed on 5th.

No newsletter July/August

EFMLS Editor's Award

First Place 2016 - Small Bulletins

Inducted into Editor's Hall of Fame - 2018



Member inputs:

- * Dave MacLean
- * Michael Pabst
- * David Fryauff
- * Kathy Hrechka
- * Don McAlarnen
- * Dr. Robert Lauf
- * Bob Cooke

