



**March 28 Time: 7:30 pm – 10 pm**

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

**Program: Exploring the Minerals of Wind Mountain: An Alkaline Intrusion near the Border with Texas**

By David Fryauff, V-president

Tucson presenter, Michael C. Michayluk has agreed to let our club view his program from the recent symposium in Tucson.



**President's Message:**

By Dave MacLean

I am looking forward to hearing Herwig Pelckmans, president of the Mineralogical Society of Antwerp Belgium when he speaks about his inexpensive tools and polarizing microscope for mineral collectors in Europe, USA and elsewhere at our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 6-7 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria.



Our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference auction of mounted minerals and prints of their photos, prepared by Karen and Michael Pabst is an opportunity for fun, as well as additions to our collections. Please bring either attractive mounted micros or attractive unmounted micros sized to mount for photographing for the auction to our March 28 meeting. Please register for our conference ASAP.

We need your help. Please sign up to help with Friday PM setup, food for Saturday lunch, and Saturday evening takedown. Many hands make light work. Kathy will have sign up list at our March 28 meeting.

MNCA is signed up to demo micro mineralogy at the Gem, Lapidary Mineral Society of Montgomery County show 10AM-6PM March 17 and 11AM-5PM on the 18th at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Rockville, MD. We need help to demonstrate our craft.

Our 2018 dues of \$15 individual and \$20 family are past due. If you have not paid your 2018 dues yet please pay them now.

**Photo of the Month**



**Sodyyite**,  $(\text{UO}_2)_2\text{SiO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , Swambo Hill, Kambove District, Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Orthorhombic. Radioactive. FOV 7 mm. Stack of 9 photos taken with macro lens. Photo by Michael Pabst.

This specimen will appear in the auction at the upcoming Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 6-7, 2018.

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/28/18

By Bob Cooke, Secretary

President David MacLean called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. No past Presidents were in attendance; eight members were present. MNCA will have a display table at the Sangster Elementary School PTA Science Fair in Burke, VA on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8:30 PM. Dave MacLean and Bob Cooke will demonstrate stereo microscopes and mineral micromounts.



Dave MacLean requested members to sign-up to man the MNCA demonstration table at the GLMS-MC Mineral Show on March 17/18. Bob Cooke announced that 30 LED 20x loupes and 18 10x non-illuminated loupes have been ordered to replenish the club stock. Dave Fryauff noted that vacancies still exist for exhibit displays at the show. Dave MacLean encouraged all members to return registration forms (and checks) to Kathy Hrechka for the Atlantic Micromounters Conference on April 6-7.

**Announcements:** John Weidner has invited MNCA members to join MSDC and NVMC members in touring the NOVA Annandale geology facilities from 1-5 PM on March 24<sup>th</sup> and again on the 31<sup>st</sup> to see how thin sections are made and can be studied. Dave Fryauff mentioned field trip opportunities to the Sterling Hill “Super Dig” on April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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: 2/28/18

Dave Fryauff gave a presentation on his trip to the Gem & Mineral show in Tucson, Arizona.

Workshop: John Kress displayed several flats of micromounts from the Ulinsky collection that was donated to the club by Lance Kearns of GMU. Sales were by the flat. Members were encouraged to “high-grade” the flat: retaining what they wanted and bringing the rest of the flat to a future meeting for other members.

Dave MacLean, Dave Fryauff and Bob Cooke discussed their road to Bunton Instruments in Mt. Airy, Maryland to see photomacroscopy and photomicroscopy equipment. Bob demonstrated a RetroCUP tilting stand to hold specimens for microscope viewing and for photography.

### Road Trip – MNCA Style

By Bob Cooke

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Dave MacLean and Dave Fryauff accompanied me on a road trip to Bunton Instruments in Mt Airy, Maryland. The proprietor, Jim Averill, works out of his home but his entire basement is dedicated to microscopes and photographic equipment. It was quite an impressive sight.

The official excuse for the trip was to determine if Jim’s business line included entry-level stereo microscopes that MNCA could recommend to neophyte micromounters at the mineral shows where we have a demonstration table. Jim told us he has re-conditioned B&L stereo scopes for about \$400 and new Motic (Chinese) scopes starting around from \$600. Probably a bit too expensive for new micromounters, but it’s the best I’ve found locally where customers can do a hands-on evaluation, instead on buying blind on the internet.

But the real reason for the trip was personal: to evaluate equipment to be acquired for personal use. (I think Dave & Dave went on this trip just for the amusement of watching me drool over stuff I can’t afford.) Options included the Infinity TS-160 -- a \$3000 package incorporating microscope lenses for attachment to a DSLR -- and ranged down to the RetroCUP, a tilting stage to hold mineral specimens for photography. I ended up purchasing a RetroCUP and showed it off at the February MNCA meeting. For the curious of you, Jim has a YouTube video of the RetroCup at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkJvKXR02W0> RetroCup is on eBay as item # 382392209426

Jim also amazed us with descriptions of state-of-the-art equipment for digital videography and photography at magnifications to and beyond 50 times life-size. I’m still investigating the web sites for many products that Jim showed us. Only time will tell how much this trip cost me.

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference  
in Alexandria 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.

**Conference Program Topics:  
Belgium and Mineralogy**

Belgium is located in the heart of Europe. In this talk, we will learn about the country, about its geographic complexity as well as its fairly simple geology. Of the more than 290 minerals known for this country, no less than 19 have their type locality in Belgium. Some

of these minerals will be highlighted in this talk. Next, we will learn about some of the most important Belgian mineralogists and their achievements. Finally, we will talk about the literature on Belgian minerals and about the most active Belgian mineral club, the MKA.

**The Many Faces of Fluorite**

Fluorite is a simple but fascinating mineral. It has a lot of cool properties and can be found at many mineral localities and in many collections. Together with other minerals like gold and diamond, it has the most symmetry in the mineral kingdom. Fluorite comes in only seven basic crystal forms, yet its crystals can have more faces than any other mineral ever found. Together we will learn about these forms, what they look like and how to recognize them.

**The Unknown Mineralogist**

Throughout history, many mineral species have been named after a person. Some of these individuals are hardly known to science, even today. On the other hand, the mineralogists who described new species are fairly well known in most cases.

One 20th century mineralogist however, who described many new minerals, remained a complete mystery. Besides his name and the minerals, he described, hardly anything else was known about him. No biography was ever written about him, no photos of him were ever published, and even his nationality was an open question.

In this talk you will be introduced to this intriguing scientist. You will learn more about him and the beautiful minerals he described, and you will even get to see, for the first time in history, some photos of the mineralogist in question.

**Topaz and Friends**

Topaz is a widespread mineral and part of most mineral collections. Its well-formed crystals sometimes look very complex because they have so many crystal faces. Like some other well known minerals (brookite, marcasite, hemimorphite,...), it belongs to the orthorhombic crystal system. By looking at real crystals of topaz and its friends, and by trying to recognize the different crystal habits, we will learn about the orthorhombic crystal system and how we can tell it apart from the other crystal systems.



## Emergency Lights for the Scope

By Herwig Pelckmans

Last month I was at my buddy Charles (Chuck) Trantham's house in San Mateo (California), looking at self-collected micro material through his scope, cleaning and trimming and mounting the good specimens, and having a great time doing so.



That abruptly came to an end when Chuck's fiber optic light source suddenly went dark. Since there was no power outage, and the other lights in the basement were still burning, I quickly realized the bulb had died. It had been working perfectly for many years before though, but I guess it decided it was time to go. So, I unplugged to light source and opened the bulb department, and low and behold, the bulb was black. I managed to get it out, so I could see the technical details, and was quite surprised to read it was a 21Volts, 150 Watts bulbs. Well, OK, I'll probably find it tomorrow in one of the zillion stores around the SF Bay Area, I thought. It was about bedtime anyway.

At the end of the next morning, after doing many miles from Target to Home Depot to Fry's as well as to some other local stores, it became clear the thing was not for sale in any shop in the area! And all the stores I found online that did have it, were out of state. Bummer! Well, I went ahead and ordered one bulb anyway, even though it would take too long to get here before I had to leave for the Micromount Symposium. In any case, I had to replace that burned out bulb sooner or later. But what to do now, without the luxury of having fiber optic lights?

Ikea! That's right, they have that Jansjo LED lamp for sale that does a great job as an inexpensive light source for the scope. The nearest Ikea store was not too far away, and they still had the lamp in stock, according to their website. How many lamps, I was unable to see. So I jumped in my rental and drove to Ikea, only to find out the lamp had just sold out at that Ikea store. AARRGGHLL (= sound full of frustration)! What to do know? The only other (fast) option was to use bright LED flashlights, but how was I going to fix them, so they would provide a good, steady light source?

The first part of the solution was found at the 99c store, where I bought my two bright LED lights. In the same store, I found a clamp with a suction cup that could be attached to a window or so (aka a "third hand", see photo). And yes, it could also perfectly hold the LED flashlight. Great! Now the only other thing we needed was a firm and fairly heavy base for the suction cup of my "flashlight holder". Wait a minute, how about a full can of golden sweet whole kernel corn, would that be the right size and weight? Sure thing!

Back home, I did the full setup (two flashlights) and was quite pleased with it (see photo). I know it's a "quick and dirty" solution, but it does do the job, even when you want to go up to 40x. Not bad for a final total of 6 x 99 cents = 5.94 US dollars (including the corn cans)! :-))



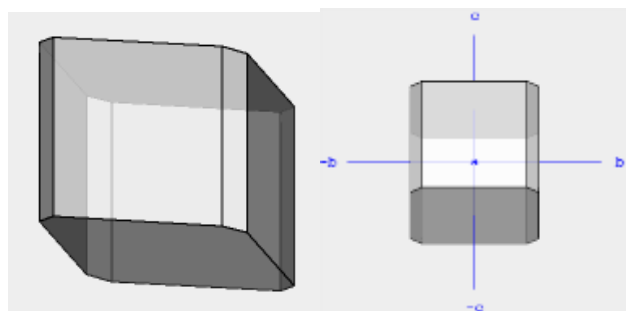
## Ferberite

By Michael Pabst PhD

Ferberite is iron tungstate ( $\text{FeWO}_4$ ). Ferberite is one end-member of the Ferberite-Hübnerite series. Hübnerite is manganese tungstate ( $\text{MnWO}_4$ ). As we mentioned in the last article, members of the series that might contain both iron and manganese have the older name “wolframite”, from which comes the symbol for tungsten: W. For any chemists keeping track, if W is in the  $6^+$  oxidation state, then Fe must be  $2^+$  or ferrous tungstate ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{W}^{6+}\text{O}_4$ ). Ferberite usually looks black, and its streak is brownish black to black, so only the thinnest fragments show any reddish color. Hübnerite has more red, often striking red, and so Hübnerite is prettier, which is why we will save it for dessert in the next article.



Ferberite is monoclinic prismatic  $2/m$ ,  $\beta = 90.0^\circ$ , which means that it has one mirror plane and one 2-fold axis of symmetry perpendicular to the mirror plane. (Why is Ferberite monoclinic with  $\beta = 90.0^\circ$ , which suggests that it should be orthorhombic? Please read the last paragraph for an explanation. \*) Here are some diagrams showing this symmetry. You can find these diagrams on Mineralein Atlas, [www.mineralienatlas.de/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Ferberit](http://www.mineralienatlas.de/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Ferberit), where you can rotate the diagrams, add labels and axes, and so on. There are many other crystals to play with, and you can see for yourself that all the axes meet at  $90^\circ$ , even though Ferberite is monoclinic.



Ferberite crystal drawings from Mineralein Atlas, Kristall Nr. F022ac. Two views of the same monoclinic crystal. The second illustration shows that the angles between the a, b, and c axes are all  $90^\circ$ .

My first specimen of Ferberite comes from Colorado. I have had this specimen for many years, and I tried to photograph it many times. There are many glossy black crystals, all randomly oriented, so any lights produce random flares from many crystals. I finally had the inspiration to photograph the specimen in the “dark”. I photographed the specimen on a gray day in my gray basement with all the windows shaded. The low light level meant that each photo in the stack required a 15 second exposure. But to my delight, the macro lens gathered enough light to produce a good photo. The second photo is just a cropped version of the first photo to show a closeup of some of the crystals.



**Ferberite** from Nederland, Nederland District, Boulder County, Colorado. Stack of 24 pictures taken in the “dark” with a 15 second exposure, using 60 mm macro lens on my Olympus camera, using focus bracketing. FOV 37 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst

Continued next page



**Ferberite continued**



**Ferberite** closeup made by cropping the first picture, which is possible due to the high resolution of the macro lens. FOV 9 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst.

My second specimen is from China. The locality is Yaogangxian mine, Yizhang county, Hunan Province, China. I bought it from Cynthia Payne; it was part of her Calcite collection. The Calcite is the translucent axe-like crystal at the top. The Calcite fluoresces red in both long-wave and short-wave ultraviolet light. The specimen also includes Muscovite, and the “sericite” variety of greenish Muscovite in the form of little balls of micro crystals. Clear Quartz is present, but not visible in the picture below. Small colorless to lavender Fluorite crystals are scattered on the mica. The smaller whitish crystal groups look like curved Dolomite, and they are not fluorescent. And, of course, the black crystals are Ferberite.



**Ferberite** from Yaogangxian mine, Yizhang county, Hunan Province, China. Stack of 6 photos made with macro lens. FOV 50 mm.



**Calcite crystal on Ferberite** specimen above, illuminated with short-wave ultraviolet light. Stack of 12 photos taken with 60 mm macro lens. FOV 12 mm.



**Ferberite** from China, closeup stack of 6, using Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II camera with 60 mm macro lens. This is a closeup crop of the previous photo. Look for a tiny lavender Fluorite in the very center of the photo, and in the upper right. FOV 14 mm. continued next page

## Ferberite continued

These are undoubtedly the finest Ferberite crystals presently residing in Penn Laird, Virginia. And if I want to see more, there are many good Ferberite photos on Mindat. I like [www.mindat.org/photo-16705.html](http://www.mindat.org/photo-16705.html). All-in-all, for a black mineral, Ferberite can be truly beautiful.

\*Explanation: The best explanation I have found for why Ferberite is monoclinic despite  $\beta = 90.0^\circ$  came from the website:

<https://crystalsymmetry.wordpress.com/2015/03/02/the-monoclinic-crystal-system-and-the-skew-angle-beta/>.

The article is titled “The monoclinic crystal system and the skew angle beta”. The article says that it is not the “metric” (the possible values of the parameters  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $\beta$ , etc.) that determines to which crystal system a crystal belongs. Rather, the symmetry of the crystal determines the parameters that are possible. In many textbooks the metric for the monoclinic crystal system is given as  $a \neq b \neq c$ , and  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $\beta \neq 90^\circ$ . This is incorrect. The correct statement is that there are *no restrictions* concerning  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ , and there is also no restriction regarding the angle  $\beta$ . Hence the correct metric (parameter restrictions) for the monoclinic system is  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$ . The angle  $\beta$  could “accidentally” be  $90.0^\circ$ , as it appears to be in Ferberite. (For Hübnerite,  $\beta = 91.18^\circ$ .) As long as the maximum symmetry is  $2/m$ , the crystal is monoclinic. This was a good lesson for me.

Editor’s note: Michael is a regular contributing (federation award winning) writer for *The Mineral Mite*. He and his lovely wife Karen prepare and photograph microminerals for our Atlantic Micromounters’ Conference each year. I am truly grateful for their contributions to our geology club. I am also looking forward to our conference’s micromineral auction to be held on March 7.



## GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

**crystal gliding** Deformation of crystalline material by orderly displacement of atoms such that good crystal structure remains after the process is finished. It often produces crystal twins. See also: *twin gliding*. Syn: *gliding [cryst]*; *translation gliding*.

**hydroxyllestadite** A pale purple to rose-pink monoclinic (pseudo-hexagonal) mineral of the *britholite* group:  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{SO}_4)_3(\text{OH}, \text{Cl}, \text{F})_2$ .

**primary type** A specimen on which the description of a new species is based, wholly or in part; e.g. a *holotype*, *syntype*, or *lectotype* (Frizzell, 1933, p.662).

**pseudosymmetry** (pseu-do-sym'-me-try) Apparent symmetry of a crystal, resembling that of another system; it is often due to twinning.

**strontio-orthojoaquinite** A yellow orthorhombic mineral:  $\text{Na}(\text{Ba}, \text{Sr})_4\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{Ti}_2\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{24}(\text{OH})_4$ . It is a dimorph of strontiojoaquinite.

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.**

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



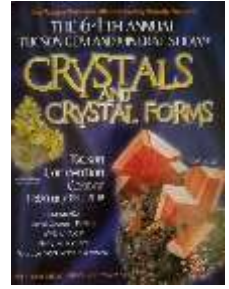
[www.dcmicrominerals.org](http://www.dcmicrominerals.org)



**Tucson Gem & Mineral Show 2018**

By Kathy Hrechka, Editor

What can I say? Friends, exhibits, lectures, and the finest minerals for sale, create Tucson's atmosphere.



Herwig Pelkmans  
Above left





Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



Jolyon Ralph Mindat



John A. Jaszczak, PhD Department of Physics  
Michigan Tech University Merelaniite



Kathy Hrechka & Jeff Scovil, Phoenix, Arizona



Neal L. Larson, Geologist/Paleontologist from Hill  
City, South Dakota aka the Ammonite Guy  
Canadian Ammonite – [www.larsonpaleo.com](http://www.larsonpaleo.com)



John Ebner in his home, a "Microscope Museum"

Editor note: I recognized Neal, from the documentary film *Dinosaur 13*. He along with his brother Pete were featured in their journey of collecting the fossil bones of Sue, the dinosaur which ended up at the Field Museum in Chicago. This is a "must see" documentary.

Tucson: Kathy's Favorite Exhibits



Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History



Mineralogical Association of Dallas Fabulous Forms



Mineral Wines Collections: mineral-wines.com



Rock Currier's Worldwide Search for Minerals



Crystals & Crystal forms Arizona Mineral Minions



Tucson: Crystal Forms 2018 & Wulfenite 2019



## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

### Kelly-noids

By Pat Haynes,  
Socorro, NM

This past summer my bestest collecting friend, Paulina Inigo (tilde on the n), & I decided to go further afield in our search for interesting minerals. We were travelling on a steep 4-wheel drive road in the Magdalena Mountains when I stopped to get out and check some road conditions. I came across lots of fossils, as I was standing in the Pennsylvanian Sandia Formation, a limestone, which lies above the Mississippian Formation Kelly limestone. Anyway, a 1-inch gastropod got my attention, so I called Paulina over. Within a few minutes she had found a trilobite's butt, a tiny "pygidium". If she had not been a micromounter she would have missed it.

In the past we had never encountered any trilobite parts, and I have sometimes fantasized about finding a blue smithsonite-replaced trilobite from the Kelly Mine. This started a several trip fossil hunt, exploring the surface Sandia Formation.

I tracked down Dr. Barry Kues, literally the man who wrote the book "Paleontology of New Mexico". Paulina and I visited his office at UNM, along with 5 flats of fossils. He was intrigued, mostly by the crinoid calyxes (heads) and we eventually took him to the fossil locations. Many calyxes were collected. Barry mailed them to a crinoid specialist in Washington state for identification. Unfortunately, they were far too weathered for an ID.

After the field trip I showed Barry several fossils, mostly crinoid "cheerios", stem sections, replaced by, or associated with various minerals, including calcite, quartz, smithsonite, hemimorphite, allophane, azurite, and wulfenite (!!!!!!!). The assemblage impressed him, and he suggested that I write a paper about the fossil/mineral specimens.



Another collecting partner, Philip Simmons, and I had been discussing putting in a display in Tucson. When we are out collecting we might find a "smithsonite pseudomorphing a crinoid stem section". That term is a bit long winded, so we started calling them "smithsonoids". We understood. Ditto for "calcinooids", "quartzinoids", "hemimonoids" and even "crinophane". With associated minerals this led to "azuressmithsonoid", "wulfensmithsonoid", "smithsonhorncoral" (Phil did not want to offend anybody with "smthsonhornycoral"), "azuressmithsonhorncoral" and "smithsonbrachyderbyia".

We had around 18 decent specimens, enough for a small display!

A friend and old college buddy in Albuquerque told me that he thought that he had a "sphalernoid"! There are lots of sulfides in the rock, but the noid itself was smithsonite, with a secondary copper coating.



Pat's Noid exhibit

article continued next page



## Kelly-noids continued

I borrowed it, trimmed it, and x-rayed the blue-green powder on it at the NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, such nice people. The specimen became a "brochantsmithsonoid".

Paulina & I wanted to give the potential display one last shot for an upgrade, so 4 days before I planned to head to Tucson, we went field collecting again.

We found some negligible things, including "hemimonoids", but upon leaving, Paulina spotted some color in a little excavated area. I came over to investigate. There were sparse micro blue and green copper minerals in the ceiling, associated with a 3.1 cm crinoid stem section! It was beautifully recovered! Upon approaching the specimen with a bag of wrapping materials I looked up at the specimen, and promptly tripped, doing a 270-degree fall/flip, landing upon my keister. We wrapped up the "noid" and left.

After the adrenaline wore off, it was figured out that I had likely broken some ribs! Within a few days I x-rayed the lil beastie. It is a "malachrosasmithsonoid"! There is aurichalcite on the specimen, but not in direct contact with the noid, or else it could have been an "aurichalmalachrosasmithsonoid"!

I am not yet 100%, but my impression is...the specimen was worth it! "AMW" (aren't minerals wonderful)?

Editor's Note: I ran into Pat Haynes at a booth where he was assisting a dealer friend. We spoke about his exhibit, as it was different, while eye catching and humorous. Pat was awarded a lovely ribbon for his exhibiting precipitation. I am still trying to figure out the mineral names. Many friends may remember him when he resided in Virginia and was a member of MNCA.



Hemimonoid is 9 mm



Azuresmithsonoid is 1 cm.



Wulfensmithsonoid is 4 mm

## Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

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



**Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

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

### 2018 AFMS Convention & Show

**Tar Heel Mineral Club annual show April 7 – 8  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

Forms can be found on the EFMLS website. AFMS Annual Meeting: Thursday, April 5 (10:30 am)  
EFMLS Annual Meeting: Friday, April 6 (7 pm)

Plans are still being finalized for the 2017 EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show to be held in Raleigh, NC the weekend of April 4 – 8. This is an exciting venue to hold a show since North Carolina is home to numerous ruby, sapphire and emerald mines to name just a few of the gemstones found there.

Hosted by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, a dual Federation club (EFMLS and SFMS), the club show has always been an excellent one and the members are excited to share their annual event with us. Field trips, both during and after the show are in the planning stage.



**March 17 & 18:** 54th Annual GLMSMC Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show - Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc. at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds at 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Admission is \$6.00, ages 12 and older.  
Admission is Free for Children (11 and under)  
Free for Scouts in Uniform.  
**MNCA Members, Remember to volunteer at the Micromount Tables.**

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

### Geology Events:

#### March

**10: 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Micromount Symposium of the Leidy Microscopical Society**

Location: Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA Saturday 9am – 3pm



**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](mailto:Don.mcalarnen@hpe.com)**

**26: Northern Virginia Mineral Club meeting**

7:30–10pm Long Branch Nature Center,  
625 South Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA

**28: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area meeting 7:30–10pm**

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

#### April

**6-7: MNCA Atlantic Micromounters' Conference**

Location: Holiday Inn Express,  
6055 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303  
Phone (571) 257-9555 (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.

### Field Trip to NVCC March 24 & 31 Thin Section Field Day

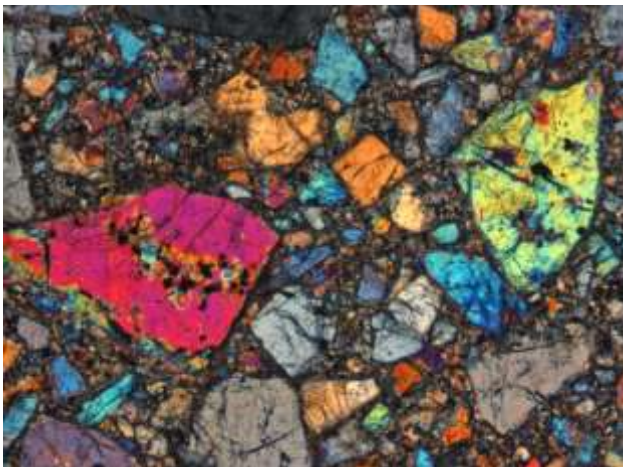
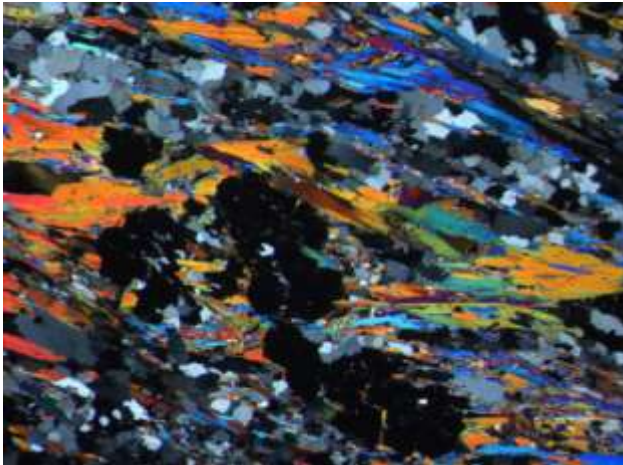
By John Weidner, MSDC Treasurer

**Where:** Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College

**When:** March 24 and/or March 31

Polish a rock. Glue it to a microscope slide. Cut it off at about a thousandth of an inch. Look at it through a polarizing microscope. You are looking at a thin section, a research tool in geology for over a hundred years, and a way to make amateurs like me say "Wow!" Like to look at some?

If you plan to come, please RSVP to [jfweidner42@gmail.com](mailto:jfweidner42@gmail.com), with what date(s) you'd like to participate so we know how many people to prepare for. Program is sponsored by Shelly Jaye, with John Weidner assisting.



**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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#### The society is a member of:

\* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)  
\* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) [www.amfed.org](http://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  
\* Michael Pabst  
\* Bob Cooke  
\* Herwig Pelkmans  
\* Pat Haynes  
\* Kathy Hrechka  
\* John Weidner  
\* Dave Fryauff

