

MNCA Website www.dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite



Vol. 53 – No. 3

Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists

March 2020

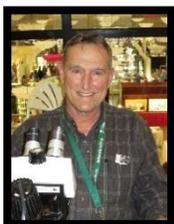
March 25 Time: 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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

Program: Bisbee, Queen of Arizona's Copper Camps and King of Arizona's Mineral Localities

by David Fryauff, Vice president

MNCA club members will view the Mineral Collector's Symposium 2012 DVD featuring Les Presmyk presentation on Bisbee: Queen of Arizona's Copper Camps, King of Arizona's Mineral Localities. Members are invited to bring in their choice specimens from Bisbee for competition viewing. Members are also invited to bring in their mounted micro & TN duplicates for trading and donation to the AMCA silent auction.



President's Message:

by Dave MacLean

2020 is my 11th year as your president. I have been honored to serve. At our February meeting I discussed with the members that I must step down by the end of the year. This year I am weathering some health problems which have made it not safe for me to drive and which slows my reaction time.



MNCA has been well served by our officers: Dave Fryauff as VP serves with an interesting selection of meeting programs and help with the demonstrations at shows and the conference.

Michael Pabst keeps our money straight and produces an overwhelming variety of micromineral photographs at our conferences.

Bob Cook keeps our minutes and cheerfully helps as needed, especially in demos at shows by other rock and mineral clubs.

Kathy Hrechka edits our award-winning Mineral Mite and is our conference chair for the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference.

For these works and other service to MNCA I say, "Thank you".

The members present said I should recruit another person to serve as president. With all the volunteer efforts by our members the presidency is not a high burden job. I need your help.

Photo of the Month



Oxycalciumicrolite $\text{Ca}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_6\text{O}$ Scott Duresky micro
Photo by Michael Pabst.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 2/26/20

by Bob Cooke, Secretary



President Dave MacLean convened the meeting at 7:40 pm on February 26, 2020. Nine members were present: Germaine Broussard, Bob Cooke, Dennis Hedrick, Dave Hennessey, Kathy Hrechka, Dave MacLean, Karen and Michael Pabst, and Barry Remer. Minutes of the January meeting were corrected to reflect a start time of 7:45 PM. Revised minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Old business: Dave MacLean solicited volunteers for the MNCA demonstration table at the GLMS mineral show on March 21 and 22. Kathy stated that ten people have signed up so far for the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference (AMC) on April 3-5, 2020. Vendors will include Al Pribula and Barbra Sky. Michael Pabst said he has ordered prints of the 56 photographs he has taken for the AMC silent and live auctions. It was suggested that Keith Williams be considered as the featured speaker at the 2021 AMC to talk on crystallography.

Treasurer's report: Michael gave a Treasurers Report and reminded members that dues are payable now. Details are found on last page of newsletter.

New business: Dave MacLean updated the group on his medical condition. Given his physical and medical challenges, he will be seeking an apprentice to assume his duties as President. Dave Hennessey invited MNCA members to hear Herwig Pelckman's presentation at the May 6 meeting of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC). Herwig is president of the Mineralogical Society of Antwerp, Belgium.

(After the meeting, we learned that MNCA has been using an incorrect email address for John Kress. The correct address is 125mhp@gmail.com)
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Previous Program Reviewed 2/26/20

by Bob Cooke, Secretary

Members viewed Victor Yount's MOROC, the documentary of Victor's 1988 adventures of mineral collecting in Morocco. This thirty-minute program will be shown at our Atlantic Micromounters' conference on Saturday evening, prior to our invited tour of Victor's private collection.

**Lance Kearns, Mineral Museum Curator
James Madison University, Virginia**



Last tour with Dr. Lance E. Kearns...2018



**Victor Clay Yount, Calcite Collector
Extraordinaire Invites AMC to Tour
Sunday April 5 Noon-2pm**

By Kathy Hrechka, Editor & Conference chair

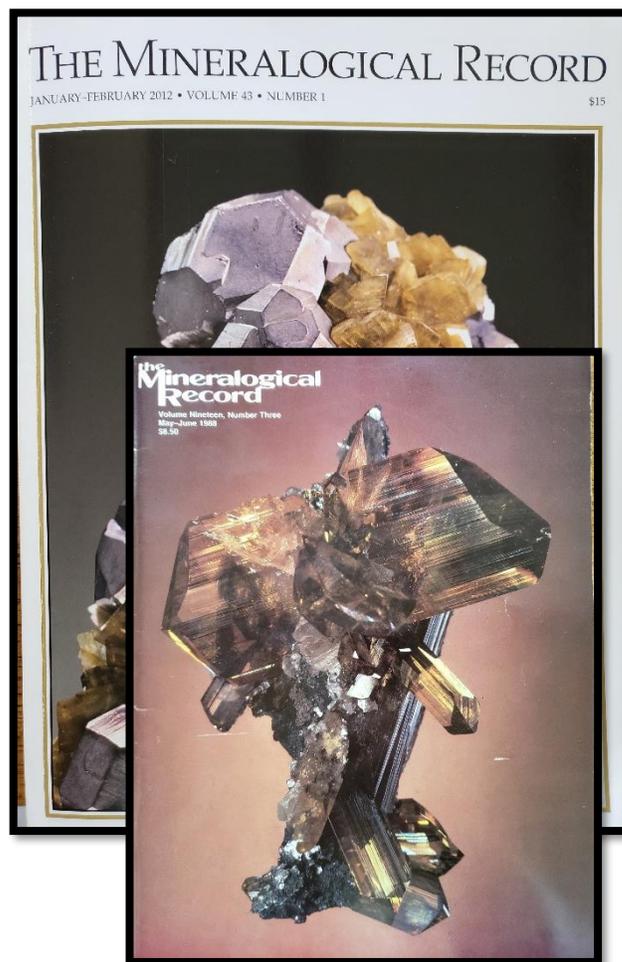
In preparation for our Atlantic Micromounter's Conference, I sought Victor Yount to be our featured speaker. Initially he invited me to his residence, so I could meet him in person. He declined my invitation to speak but offered a better solution for our group. He referred me to his 1988 documentary MOROC, asking that we view it. Victor then graciously invited our group to a private tour of his mineral collection. So, while he toured me through his magnificent calcite collection, I quickly deduced that he was no micromounter. His collection is a world class museum, mainly comprised of calcites.

In order to compose a brief biography of Victor, he referred me to The Mineralogical Record Jan-Feb 2012, where he was featured in a thirteen-page article "Collector Profile: Victor Yount and his Calcite Collection", written by Thomas P. Moore of Tucson, Arizona. I highly recommend this feature article, as Victor has had an amazing journey throughout life, including being a major mineral dealer since the early 1970s.

Born in 1947 in Sumter, South Carolina to parents of Barton Kyle Yount, Jr. (1919-1969) and Lucy Hampton Barringer (1921-1991). Lucy is relative to the Barringer family known from discovering and owning the Meteor Crater in Arizona. Victor's father was an international lawyer in the Air Force. In 1953 the family moved to Madrid, where Victor attended grammar school, where he learned to speak Spanish. In 1959 his family relocated to Montgomery, Alabama. In 1963 they moved back to Spain where Victor completed high school at a US Air Base outside Madrid. While his parents lived in Spain, Victor attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia in 1966-1969. Although he did not complete his degree, the "Aquarian Exposition" at Woodstock, New York changed his life forever. He embraced world travel and mineral collecting.

Victor's earliest mineral related memories go back to when he was seven years old collecting quartz and fossils. By the age of fifteen he was exchanging significant specimens with Herb Obodda.

During college he was conducting sales and trades with major mineral museums. Victor claimed having a fine collection of 300 worldwide specimens. The rest was history. Today he is known to have over 9,000 calcite specimens, the finest assemblage of a single species ever gathered by a private collector.



The Mineralogical Record May-June 1988 Cover: Anglesite. The large crystal measures 4.5 cm. This is one of the specimens stolen from Victor Yount during the Tucson Show 1988. p209 states; it's the world's finest anglesite crystal from Touissat, Morocco. His van was broken into while having dinner, and a satchel of minerals (along with his guitar) were stolen. Having photographs, the police recovered some, but not the anglesite featured on the cover.

Bibliography

Moore, Thomas P. (2012) Collector Profile: Victor Yount and his Calcite Collection, The Mineralogical Record, 43 85-97.

Sarkinite and Krautite

by Michael Pabst PhD, Treasurer

Sarkinite is a manganese arsenate mineral, which happened to appear amongst George Reimherr's micromount collection. I was thinking of moving from manganese to another metal in my series of mineral articles, when I came upon this interesting specimen. I confess that I was not familiar with Sarkinite, and it intrigued me. So instead of moving on, here are two more interesting manganese arsenate minerals, Sarkinite and Krautite.



Sarkinite is $\text{Mn}^{2+}_2(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{OH})$. It is a monoclinic mineral ($2/m$ prismatic) with $\beta = 108.8^\circ$. Hardness 4-5. The Reimherr specimen comes from the Sterling Mine, Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, Franklin Mining District, Sussex County, NJ. Here it is, with the first two photos taken with the Macro Lens + Raynox Lens. The closeup photo (FOV 1 mm) was cropped to less than 10% of its original size, so the resolution suffers. The third and fourth photos were taken through the stereo microscope. The photos are of different crystals on the same specimen.



Sarkinite, Sterling Hill, NJ. FOV 3 mm.

Sarkinite from Sterling Mine, Franklin District, Sussex Co., NJ. All photos taken by Michael Pabst. Specimen from the George Reimherr collection, labelled Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ.



FOV 1 mm.



FOV 1.5 mm.

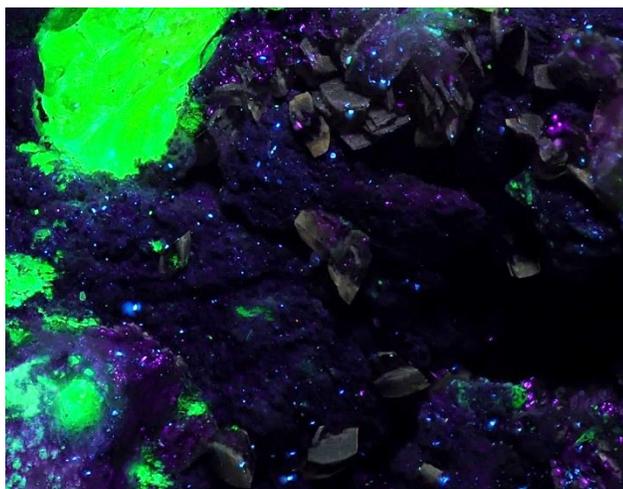


FOV 1 mm.

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Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Some minerals in the matrix of the Sarkinite from the Franklin Mining District show green fluorescence, but the Sarkinite itself does not show fluorescence with either long-wave or short-wave UV light. In UV light, the Sarkinite crystals look dark brown, but some pink and white larger minerals in the matrix show green fluorescence. Perhaps they are “Troostite” ($(\text{Zn},\text{Mn})_2\text{SiO}_4$, a manganese-containing variety of Willemite. Sarkinite is not reported to be fluorescent in the Online Database of Luminescent Minerals: www.fluomin.org/uk/accueil.php. I mention this negative result with fluorescence of Sarkinite, because the Mineral Atlas shows photos of supposed green fluorescence of Sarkinite: www.mineralatlas.eu/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Sarkinit. These might be photos of Troostite.



Sarkinite on matrix exposed to intense long-wave UV light from my Convoy “super-flashlight”. Photo by Michael Pabst. Photo taken with Macro + Raynox, stacking 23 images. FOV 5 mm. The small dark crystals in the center are Sarkinite, and the green fluorescent crystals are likely “Troostite”, a variety of Willemite.

On Mindat, there is a nice photo by Jason Smith of Sarkinite from the Sterling Mine: www.mindat.org/photo-79578.html. And Stephan Wolfsried also has a photo from Sterling Mine: www.mindat.org/photo-731321.html. Best of all, there is a fantastic photo by Torbjörn Lorin of a beautiful complex Sarkinite crystal from Sweden: www.mindat.org/photo-728768.html, which you must click on, because it was once a Mindat Photo-of-the-Day.

The Sarkinite in this Swedish photo is raspberry red, compared with the orange color of Sarkinite from the Sterling Hill - Franklin District. The background mineral in the Swedish photo is Caryopilite $\text{Mn}^{2+}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$, a serpentine mineral. Based on appearance, Caryopilite might be in the matrix of the Reimherr specimen as well. Sarkinite was named from the Greek σάρκινός (sarkinos) meaning flesh, due to its color

Krautite $\text{Mn}^{2+}(\text{HAs}^{5+}\text{O}_4)\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is chemically related to Sarkinite. I mention Krautite because it can be beautiful, and I have a good photo of it on Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-757721.html. Experts are sharply divided whether my photo of Krautite is better than Stephan Wolfsried’s photo: www.mindat.org/photo-796996.html.

Krautite is also monoclinic like Sarkinite, but Krautite is monoclinic 2-sphenoidal, making it less symmetrical than Sarkinite, which is monoclinic $2/m$. Hardness 3-4. In the photos below, Krautite is associated with another manganese arsenate, Villyaellenite $\text{MnMn}_2\text{Ca}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2(\text{HAsO}_4)_2\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which are the clear tan crystals. My specimen comes from Săcărâmb, Deva, Hunedoara, Romania, formerly known as Nagyág, which is the type locality. Krautite was described in 1975, and was named for François Kraut (1907-1983), a mineralogist at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.



Krautite (pink) and Villyaellenite (clear tan). FOV 9 mm. Photo by Michael Pabst through stereomicroscope, stacking 24 images.

Here is a closeup photo to help distinguish the clear tan crystals of Villyaellenite from the tan earthy stuff. Stephan Wolfsried provides a better picture of Villyaellenite: www.mindat.org/photo-670126.html.

Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2

by Scott Duresky, AMC speaker 2020

As an independent and self-taught mineralogist, the research I've done on the historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2, Amelia Courthouse, Virginia follows a long tradition of papers which have been published on the minerals of this locality, including:



W.H. Fontaine's "*Notes on the Occurrences of Certain Minerals in Amelia County, Virginia*", published in the American Journal of Science, Vol. 25 (1883)

A.A. Pegau of the University of Virginia's "*The Rutherford Mines, Amelia County, Virginia*", published in the Journal of the Mineralogical Society of America (1932)

Jewell J. Glass of the U.S. Geological Survey's *the Pegmatite Minerals from Near Amelia, Virginia*, published in Vol. 20, No. 11 of The American Mineralogist in November 1935

John Sinkankas' "*Classic Mineral Occurrences: 1. Geology and Mineralogy of The Rutherford Pegmatites, Amelia, Virginia*", published in The American Mineralogist, Vol. 33, March-April 1968

Dick Grier, Jr. "*The Rutherford Mines*", published in 1993, and

Gregory R. Lumpkin's "*Rare-Element Mineralogy and Internal Evolution of The Rutherford #2 Pegmatite, Amelia County, Virginia: A Classic Locality Revisited*", published in Vol. 36 of *The Canadian Mineralogist* (1998)

Coincidentally, 1998 was the last year in which the Rutherford Mine was open to collectors, with the bulk of the minerals that I have studied in preparation for my presentation were collected in the 1950's - 1970's. While I don't pretend that my research has the standing of the papers previously published, it does incorporate much of the research that has been developed in the last two decades, has tentatively identified new mineral species not previously

reported, and has been helpful in identifying individual members of the Pyrochlore supergroup in the wake of its recent reorganization.

The intensive examination of the specimens collected during the period mentioned above has given me personal insight into the unusual mineralization that can take place during the course of three different pegmatite intrusions, and this has led me into a particular interest in the unusual associations that can take place with even otherwise common species.

Shown below are four micromineral photographs from the Rutherford Mine, Amelia, Virginia.



Zircon $Zr(SiO_4)$ Photo by Michael Pabst



Spessartine $Mn^{2+}_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$ Photo by Michael Pabst

Continued next page

Rutherford continued



Fluorcalciomicrolite $\text{Ca}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_6\text{F}$ or $(\text{Ca},\text{Na})_2(\text{Ta},\text{Nb})_2\text{O}_6\text{F}$ Photo by Michael Pabst



Oxycalciomicrolite $\text{Ca}_2\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_6\text{O}$ Photo by Michael Pabst

The Mineral Mite Editor's Note: Scott Duresky from Charlottesville, Virginia will be one of the featured speakers at our Atlantic Micromounters' Conference on April 4, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Virginia.



GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

diamond simulant Any material which is not diamond or synthetic diamond, but which simulates a faceted diamond's appearance and is used in its place. Common diamond simulants include cubic zirconia (CZ), gadolinium gallium garnet (GGG), synthetic spinel, and yttrium aluminum garnet (YAG). Also called diamond substitute.

gemmiferous (gem-mif'-er-ous) Producing or containing gems.

pseudograndreefite (pseu'-do-grand-reef'-ite) A sub-adamantine colorless orthorhombic mineral: $\text{Pb}_6(\text{SO}_4)\text{F}_{10}$.

All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#). GeoWord of the Day is brought to you by: EnviroTech! envirotechonline.com

**The Leidy Microscopical Society
44th Annual
MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM**

Friday March 13, 2020 - noon to 6pm
Saturday March 14, 2020 – 9am to 6pm
(Lunch provided on Saturday)

Advent Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954

TABLE SPACE (for two days):
\$25.00 (3ft) & \$40.00 (full 6ft table)
Visitor's Fee (no table): \$5.00 Fri. & \$10.00 Sat.
(includes lunch on Sat.)
* Silent Auctions * Give-Away Tables *

Reservations/ Admission: Make checks payable to:
Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road
East Norriton, PA 19403 (610) 584-1364
Questions: Email: donmcalarnen@outlook.com

My New Toy

By Steve Stuart, Editor for CMMA, AMC speaker

Last March, I purchased from Amazon a rig that allow me to take pictures through my microscope using my Android smart phone. The phone has a really nice camera. The circular clamp on the left adjusts to fit snugly over the right ocular of my microscope. The phone slides into the rectangular clamp on the right. The horizontal slide bar also pivots to allow the lens on the phone to be centered in the hole of the circular clamp. Once the camera/phone is centered and snug, I hold it in place, then zoom it out to full 4X. The image fills the screen with no circular vignetting. Setting the microscope zoom to 1 gives a 4mm FOV. A setting of 2 gives 2mm FOV, while a setting of 4 gives a 1mm FOV. Settings from 1 to 2 give the best results.



I have been using it since early March, and have brought it to several micromineral symposia, including the Leidy Microscopical Society Symposium in March, the Atlantic Micromount Conference in early April, the Micromounters' Playroom in Rochester, and the CMMA Symposium in early May. I have posted images in almost real time from these events to the Micromount Group on Facebook. I have included some sample images.



Burbankite with hairy termination from Jones Mill Quarry, Magnet Cove, Arkansas. 2mm FOV. Off the giveaway tables at CMMA

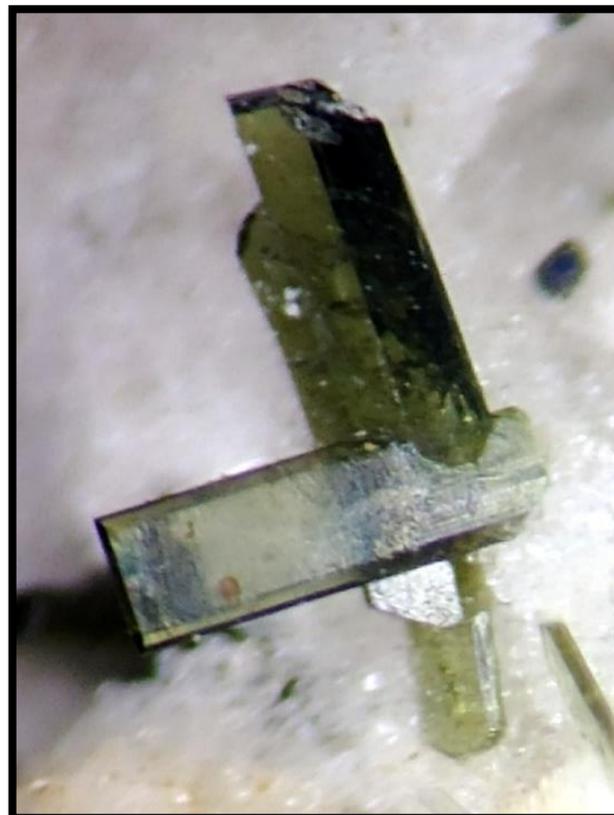


Wulfenite from the Red Cloud Mine in Arizona. Collected by Jim Daly and contributed by him to the giveaway tables at CMMA 2mm FOV

My New Toy continued



Manganese oxide dendrites on and overlaid by deweylite from the Pennsylvania-Maryland State Line Quarry, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Off the giveaways at CMMA 2mm FOV



Enstatite (hypersthene) from Le Capucin, Puy-de-Dôme, France. 4mm FOV. from the Atlantic Micro-mount Conference



Wulfenite from the Ford Mine, Pinal County, Arizona. 4mm FOV. CMMA giveaways



Boggsite from the type locality: Neer Road, Goble, Columbia County, Oregon. 2mm FOV. Ex-Marcelle and Charles Weber collection. Purchased at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

“Periodic Table of a Smart Phone”

by Kathy Hrechka, Editor & Conference chair

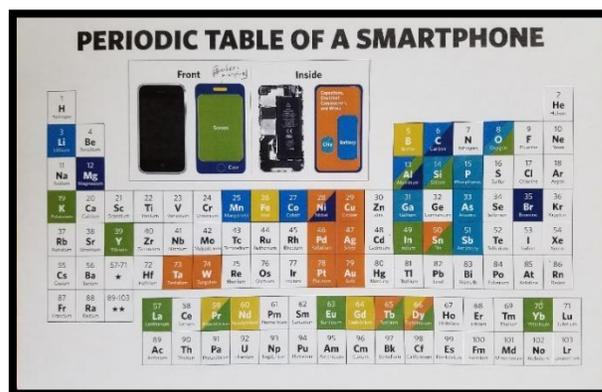
I am a retired flight attendant with an avocation for geology — specifically, microminerals (crystals so small that they require magnification for viewing). I have been a member of three local mineral clubs for 35 years; my favorite club, Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, studies the chemistry of microminerals. I’ve also been invited by the local Boy Scout organization to teach geology-related badges to members.

Since 2012, I’ve also been a volunteer at the National Museum of Natural History in the Geology, Gems, and Minerals (GGM) gallery. This gallery contains a world-class mineral collection, with chemical formulas on each labeled specimen. My favorite mineral is smithsonite, a zinc carbonate material that comes in many colors; it’s named after James Smithson, scientist and philanthropist of the Smithsonian Institution. I have acquired smithsonites from over 50 locations around the world.

My volunteer day at the museum begins with assembling the educational cart “Periodic Table of a Smartphone.” This cart features a cellphone that has been taken apart, allowing people to see what’s inside. A chart of the periodic table of elements is featured in the signage holder located above the cart. It highlights 35 native elements that are used to manufacture the phone. Museum visitors can touch four mineral samples, each with a notation of its name, its chemical formula and its use in the cellphone. The samples include spodumene (mined for lithium batteries), chalcocite (mined for copper), magnetite (mined for iron), and bauxite (mined for aluminum). This display of geology is proof that we are dependent on mining minerals for technology — in this case, for our smartphones. I facilitate discussions about our society’s dependence on minerals. I also promote the value of the periodic table, showing how combining elements creates minerals (for example, silicon

combined with oxygen creates quartz). When appropriate, I encourage visitors to download free apps of the periodic table that feature photos and other details about the elements. I also direct them to the geology store by GGM, where they can purchase books, posters, and flash cards of the periodic table.

An educational cart like this one is a valuable tool for engaging museumgoers. Welcoming all our visitors, local and international, makes each day a very rewarding experience. For me, a day at the museum in the mineral gallery is my happy place. After all, the Smithsonian holds our nations treasures, and the mineral exhibits contain that world class collection.



Kathy Hrechka enjoying a volunteer shift in the Geology, Gems, and Minerals gallery at the National Museum of Natural History. Educational cart: “Periodic Table of a Smart Phone”

Periodic Table continued

One of my volunteer colleagues “Miner Mike” Kaas, of Arlington, Virginia recently sent me an interesting article link which pertains to chemistry and smart phones. The abbreviated article below ties into our awareness of mining elements for our technology.

Periodic table: new version warns of elements that are endangered

by David Cole-Hamilton Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of St Andrews

It is amazing to think that everything around us is made up from just 90 building blocks – the naturally occurring chemical elements. Dmitri Mendeleev put the 63 of these known at the time into order and published his first version of what we now recognize as the periodic table in 1869.

There are now 118 known elements but only 90 that occur in nature. The rest are mostly super-heavy substances that have been created in laboratories in recent decades through nuclear reactions, and rapidly decay into one or more of the natural elements.

Each area of the new table has been color coded to indicate its vulnerability. In most cases, elements are not lost but, as we use them, they become dissipated and much less easy to recover. Red indicates that dissipation will make the elements much less readily-available in 100 years or less – that’s helium (He), silver (Ag), tellurium (Te), gallium (Ga), germanium (Ge), strontium (Sr), yttrium (Y), zinc (Zn), indium (In), arsenic (As), hafnium (Hf) and tantalum (Ta).

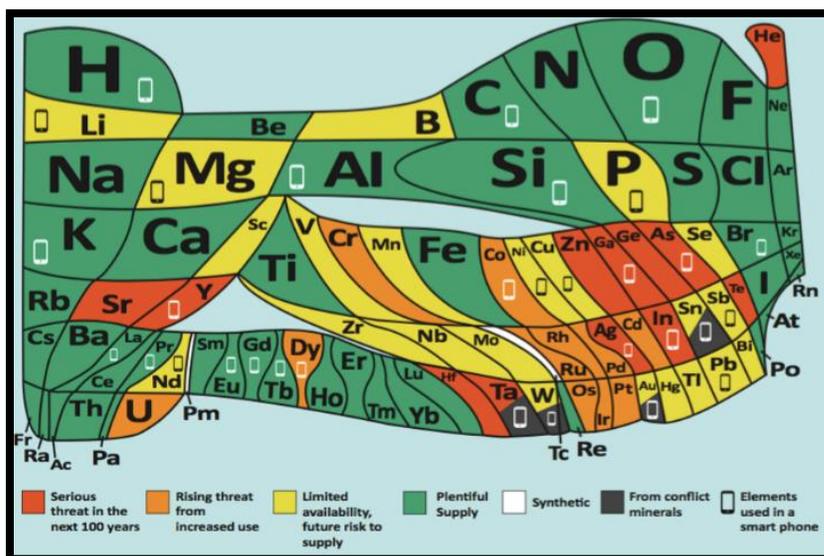
To give just a couple of examples, helium is used to cool the magnets in MRI scanners and to dilute oxygen for deep sea diving. Vital rods in nuclear reactors use hafnium. Strontium salts are added to fireworks and flares to produce vivid red colors. Yttrium is a component of camera lenses to make them shock and heat resistant. It is also used in lasers and alloys. Gallium, meanwhile, is used to make very high-quality mirrors, light-emitting diodes and solar cells.

Smartphone shortages: Out of the 90 elements, 31 carry a smartphone symbol – reflecting the fact that they are all contained in these devices. This includes all four of the elements from conflict minerals and another six with projected useful lifetimes of less than 100 years.

Let us consider indium (In), for instance, which is colored red on the table. Every touch screen contains a transparent conducting layer of indium tin oxide. There is quite a lot of indium, but it is already highly dispersed. It is a byproduct of zinc manufacture, but there is only enough from that source for about 20 years. Then the price will start to rise quickly – unless we do something to preserve current stocks.

David Cole-Hamilton is affiliated with the UK Liberal Democratic Party. He is Vice-President of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS). He is Past-President of the Royal Society of Chemistry Dalton Division covering Inorganic Chemistry. He is a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Education Committee, RSE Learned Societies Group on STEM Education, RSE European Strategy Group and chairs the sub-group on Research, Innovation and Tertiary Education. He is a Trustee of the Wilkinson Charitable Foundation.

<https://theconversation.com/us>
January 24, 2019 9.12am Est



Smithsonian's Geology, Gems, and Minerals Gallery - New Appeal

By Kathy Hrechka, Editor

I had the privilege of volunteering in GGM after the gallery was closed for one week. I wanted to find out what was done during the closure. So, before the museum opened on March 2, I discovered Dr. Post, Dr. Wise, and Dr. Feather gathered in the mineral gallery. They told me that after twenty years, the entire GGM got a thorough cleaning, including all windows. Updated lighting was installed in the gem gallery. They were also there, finishing the last-minute touches with exhibits personnel who installed a new Spodumene from Brazil.

The accompanying signage stated: "Named after US Gemologist Kunz, Kunzite is the pink variety of spodumene. Traces of manganese give the crystal its color. The 7.47 – kg. (16.4 lb.) specimen is one of the world's largest gem-quality kunzite crystals. The necklace was designed by Paloma Picasso."



Spodumene (var. Kunzite) Brazil

I must agree, this spodumene is stunningly beautiful. During my volunteer shift I promote that lithium batteries are made from spodumene. So, I wonder how many batteries could be made from this specimen. Discovering the geologists in the gallery prior to the museum opening was truly a bonus for me that day. I find it rather amazing that I have known each of them for over thirty years, thanks to our mineral club affiliations.

American Golden Topaz:

22,892 carats

Minas Gerais, Brazil

Gift of the Rockhound Hobbies of America through efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Drs. Marie and Ed Borgatta, 1988.

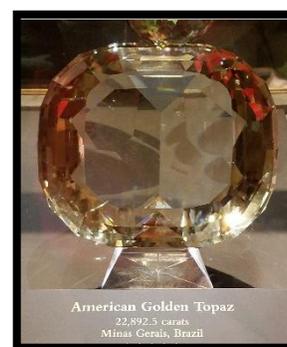


Photo credits, Kathy Hrechka, GGM volunteer

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

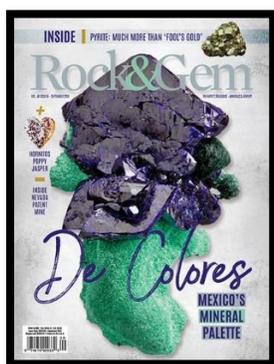
Please read the AFMS bulletin attached in original monthly email to MNCA members.

AFMS Purpose: 2020 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 related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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



The Rock & Gem magazine is recognized as the official magazine of the AFMS.



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and
Lapidary Societies

(EFMLS)
<https://efmls.org>

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

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

Local Geology Club Meetings:

March 2020

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

9: 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

**March 13-14: Leidy Microscopical Society
44th Annual Micromount Symposium**
45 Worthington Mill Road Richboro, Pennsylvania
Information: <donmcalarnen@outlook.com>

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

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

**Atlantic Micromounters' Conference
April 3-5, 2020 - Holiday Inn, Alexandria, VA
Tour Victor Yount's mineral collection Sun 5**

Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference April 3-5, 2020

Holiday Inn, 6055 Richmond Hwy Alexandria, VA
Tour Victor Yount's mineral collection Sunday 5

Fri Apr 3 - 7pm Michael Pabst "Exotic Lands, Exotic Foods, Exotic Minerals"

Sat Apr 4 - 10am Scott Duresky "Conclusions from the Research of the Historic Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2, Amelia Courthouse, Virginia"

Sat Apr 4 - 4pm Steve Stuart "Findings from the Winston Collection"

Sat Apr 4 - 7pm Michael Seeds "Collecting Radioactive Minerals." Bonus: We will view Victor Yount's Dvd MOROC after Michael Seed's program.

Sun Apr 5 - Noon Victor Yount has invited our group to view his mineral collection on Sunday in Marshall, VA which is 50 miles west of Holiday Inn.

Brief speaker biographies:

Michael Pabst, Penn Laird, VA Michael Pabst is a retired professor of biochemistry who has collected minerals all his life. He and his wife, Karen, like to travel and check out mineral museums in distant lands.

Scott Duresky, Charlottesville, VA Scott is a self-taught mineralogist who first started collecting on the dumps of the Rutherford Mine pegmatite in the late 1960's. Early on, he received extensive lessons in the field from the late Frank Crayton, a research chemist with Philip Morris in Richmond.

Steve Stuart Bethlehem, PA His childhood interest in chemistry, nature and minerals was rekindled in 1995 when he started to collect fluorescent mineral. In the late 1990s, he bought a stereo microscope, which opened a whole new world for him. Steve posted his first photo to Mindat in 2004, and now has over 2,500 images on Mindat.

Mike Seeds, Lancaster, PA He was a Physics major at the University of Illinois and MS and PhD in Astronomy from Indiana University (1970). Mike has published eight different books for teachers using different approaches to introductory astronomy.

Victor Yount's mineral collection tour on Sunday

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
Phone (703) 228-6535

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

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Editor/Historian: Kathy Hrechka

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The society is a member of:

* Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) www.efmls.org

* American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) www.amfed.org affiliation

Dues: MNCA Membership Dues for 2020
\$15 (single) or \$20 (family)

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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
AFMS Trophy 2019



Member inputs:

- * Steve Stuart
- * Dave MacLean
- * Bob Cooke
- * Michael Pabst
- * Kathy Hrechka
- * David Fryauff
- * Mike Seeds
- * Scott Duresky

