Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

MNCA Website dcmicrominerals.org

The Mineral Mite

Vol. 51 – No. 5 Washington D.C. – A Journal for Micromineralogists May 2018

Atlantic Micromounter's Conference II– Herwig & Belgian Chocolates

May 23 Time: 7:30 pm – 10 pm

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

Program: Sterling Hill "Big Dig" and the Franklin Mineral Show

By Dave Fryauff, Vice president

Sterling Hill Mine, now known as the Sterling Hill Mine Tour & Museum of Fluorescence, is a former iron and zinc mine in Ogdensburg, Sussex County, New Jersey. Mining began at the site in the 1630s. There are 56 kilometers of tunnels in the mine going down 629 meters on the main shaft and 815 meters on the lower shaft. Along with the nearby Franklin Mine, Sterling Hill Mine is known for its variety (357 in total or 10% of what is known to science) of minerals. Thirty-five of the minerals found on site have not been found anywhere else. Ninety-one of the minerals fluoresce. Sterling Hill Mine was the last working underground mine in New Jersey when it closed in 1986. Sterling Hill is one of the world's premiere mineral localities. Details p. 2

Photo of the Month

President's Message:

By Dave MacLean

I really enjoyed our AMC this year. Herwig Pelckmans' talks were interesting and delightful. Not only did he talk about Belgian minerals, he gave us a look into Belgian as a nation and its culture. I was fascinated. I wonder what micro and sub micro minerals are hiding under the part of Belgium underlain by unconsolidated tertiary sediments.

Little did I realize how the seven basic forms of fluorite created so many faces, different outward appearing crystal shapes. I was fascinated about meeting the unknown and mysterious mineralogist Johannes Vaes and his revealing a group of new minerals from the mines in the Katanga Province in southeast Belgian Congo, now the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC. I did not realize how many "friends" topaz has and how its "symmetries" appear in so many other minerals. Thank you, Herwig.

Finally, I got the chance to "ham it up" to persuade all of us to enjoy the beautiful slides of attractive micros (thank you Michael Pabst) and to bid high and often in our annual micro mineral auction.

Soon summer will be upon us. May the micro mineral hunting be rewarding.

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Photo of the Month

Botryoidal quartz grape agate, Mamuju area, Sulawesi Barat Province, Sulawesi, Indonesia
Photomicrography by Kathy Hrechka
Camera, Olympus TG5 auto stacking mode

Franklin & Sterling Hill, New Jersey "the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World"

By David Fryauff, Vice President

On April 28-29, 2018 marked the annual Sterling Hill Mineral Museum Super Dig. This year, again, the draw was special reserve tonnage of mine run minerals from the Franklin Mill site. I took advantage of the morning garage sale at the Sterling Hill to see what they were selling at the $3, $5, and $10 tables. Low and behold, Herwig Pelckmans and his wife Christine were there, ahead of me, and had filled a flat with their choice selections.

In the afternoon I went over to the Franklin Mineral Museum and Buckwheat dump to try my luck. I chose not to pay the $35 entry fee to the Super Dig Mill Site tonnage and enjoyed a beautiful afternoon cracking mostly dolomite at the Buckwheat dump. The dolomite at the Buckwheat Dump is quite productive for several minerals, and some excellent micromineral specimens of hemimorphite, rutile, dolomite, quartz, sphalerite, & clinochlore were found.

The next day, being the last Sunday in the month, allowed me entrance to the Mine Run Dump, the Passaic Pit, & the Trotter mine at Sterling Hill. I have never failed to find something worth the $5 entry fee, and enjoyed another beautiful spring day with temperatures hovering at 60 F. My favorite spot for rockhounding is back near the old Trotter Mine shaft...I could have spent several more hours past the 3 pm deadline, but I had to weigh & pay $1.50 for each pound I wanted to haul away.

The trip back to MD on Monday morning took me down the PA side of the Delaware River to the north side of Easton, PA, and the Sherrer Quarry (aka CK Williams quarry) alongside Route 611, just below Lafayette University. According to Mindat, famed mineralogist Arthur Montgomery deeded this quarry to Lafayette University "for the purpose of preserving this unique mineralogical site in perpetuity. My time there was short, but I was well-rewarded with excellent specimens of the relatively rare, type locality mineral, eastonite, and some beautiful specimens of white, fibrous tremolite.

Celebration of Life Dr. Pete J. Dunn on May 19 in Ogdensburg, New Jersey

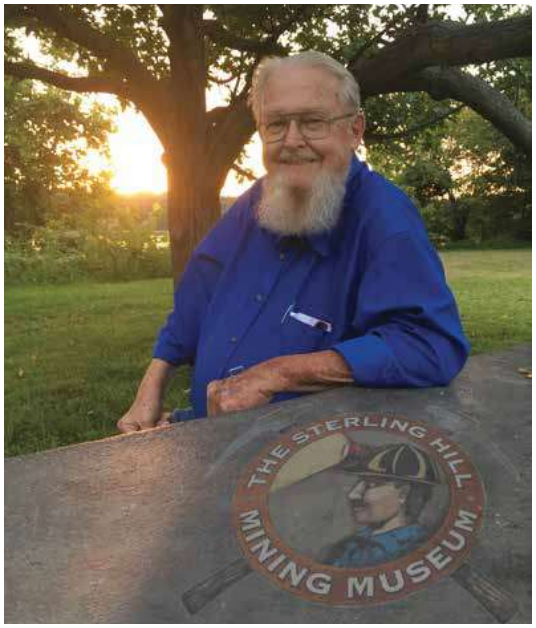
RETIRED SMITHSONIAN MINERALOGIST
DR. PETE J. DUNN PASSED AWAY ON
NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Among his final requests, Pete wished to be cremated and his ashes scattered at the Sterling Hill Mine in Ogdensburg, NJ, where he focused much of his professional life describing many new minerals from the prolific Franklin-Ogdensburg deposits.

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum is honoring Pete's request, and a Celebration of Life is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 12:30 pm at the mine. Those who knew and worked with Pete during his long and prolific career are invited to attend, say a few words, and witness the scattering of his ashes at his beloved Sterling Hill. The informal gathering will begin at 12:30 PM at the museum's Pavilion. Following the ceremony, The Sterling Hill Mining Museum will provide a luncheon.

RSVPs can be sent to Maureen E. Verbeek at moellen57@gmail.com or call 570-228-1838.
RSVPs are not required, just helpful.

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 12:30 pm
Sterling Hill Mining Museum Pavilion
30 Plant St., Ogdensburg NJ 07439
www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org



Previous Meeting Minutes: 4/25/18

By Bob Cooke, Secretary

President Dave MacLean called the meeting to order at 8 PM April 25, 2018. No past presidents were present. Attendance included seven members (Dave MacLean, Dave Fryauff, Michael Pabst, Barry Remer, Kathy Hrechka, Dave Hennessey and Bob Cooke) and five guests; Herwig & Christine Pelckmans, Germaine Broussard, Laura Dwyer and Gary Christmas.

Kathy reported that the Atlantic Micromounters Conference was a success, due especially to our guest speaker, Herwig Pelckmans, and to the support of many club members. Kathy indicated that a full report would be forthcoming next month. Michael Pabst gave a treasurer's report and announced that he had brought a final box of Ulinsky micromounts for review and sale.

Dave Fryauff reviewed field trip opportunities for the coming weekend at the Sterling Hill Big Dig and the Franklin Mineral Show. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Previous Program Reviewed: 4/25/18

By Bob Cooke

Kathy Hrechka reviewed the April *Mineral Mite* on our club website www.dcmicrominerals.org. She showed pictures of the behind-the-scenes tour of "Smithsonian Treasures: Mineral Sciences" dating back to her 1988 access, as well as Herwig's recent invitation by various geologists.

The evening's activities concluded with two presentations by Herwig Pelckmans, president of the Mineralogical Society of Antwerp, Belgium. He first demonstrated how to use Smorf crystal drawing software www.smorf.nl to replicate the crystal form of a mineral specimen and determine its crystal class. He then presented a series of remarkable close-up photographs of minerals from the Clara Mine, Oberwolfach, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame

By Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Chair

Those recognized this year are from the Eastern Federation:

Kathy Hrechka, *The Mineral Mite*
Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc.

Editor's Note: I wish to thank our club members for contributing articles to *The Mineral Mite* in 2017. The following club members were recognized at the AMS/EFMLS Editor's breakfast on April 8 at the convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Certificates of appreciation will be handed out at our May meeting.
Sincerely, Kathy

Bulletin Editor's Contest Awards

Original Educational Articles
Fifth Place Award
Michael Pabst
Wulfrenite

Sixth Place Award
Michael Pabst
Lindgrenite and Szenicsite

Eighth Place Award
J. Scott Duresky
Newly-Identified Members of the Microlite Group from The Rutherford Mine Pegmatite #2, Amelia Courthouse, VA

Non-Technical Articles
Eighth Place Award
David MacLean
Tiny Minerals in Big Rocks: The Microminerals of Granitic Pegmatites

Tenth Place Award
Alec Brenner
Lab Notes: Aussie Edition

Tenth Place Award
Dave MacLean
Merelaniite and the Associated Minerals of the Merelani Tanzanite Deposit

Continued next page

Editor Bulletin Contest continued

Written Features
Honorable Mention
Kathy Hrechka
50th Golden Anniversary of MNCA Atlantic Micro-mounters' Conference

Kathy Hrechka
Smithsonian's Smart Phone Geo Cart

Dave MacLean
The Smithsonian Micromount Collection

The Decade Club
The decade club, founded in 1991, is an elite group of bulletin editors who have served their clubs for ten years or more. Over the seventeen years since its inception, other fine editors have been added to the rolls of the Decade Club. We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions of all the members to their clubs and to the EFMLS.

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

Photo of Dave Fryauff at the "Big Dig"
Photo courtesy of Herwig Pelckmans

EFMLS Fall Wildacres Workshop Speaker: Alfredo Petrov Sept 3-9, 2018

By Steve Weinberger

It's not too early to register for the Fall 2018 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres. Our speaker-in-residence is none other than noted mineralogist Alfredo Petrov. He's a mineral dealer, world traveler, and excellent speaker. We know you'll enjoy spending the week "on the mountain" with Alfredo and all the other participants.

Tuition, including room and board is $425 for the entire week. Your only additional expenses will be for the materials you use during your classes plus whatever you chose to spend at our always fun auction and in the canteen each evening. (They sell a great selection of ice creams and other snacks, postcards, warm sweatshirts and jackets, etc.).

Sleeping quarters are in comfortable double occupancy bedrooms, each with private bathroom. If you come by yourself, you will be assigned a roommate for the week - or if you come with a friend, you can indicate whether you would wish to room with that person or not. Husbands and wives (or *significant* others) are automatically assigned together. Meals are served family style in the very pleasant dining hall and group meetings are held in the comfortable North Lodge meeting room. We hope that you will join us for what promises to be an outstanding week of fun and learning "on the mountain".

Questions; contact Suzie Milligan, Registrar at <smilligan@stny.rr.com> 607-687-5108, or Pam Bryant, Wildacres Director <pjbryant6@juno.com> phone 804-457-4698

Tungstenite

By Michael Pabst PhD

We will end our examination of tungsten minerals by looking at Tungstenite WS_2. Up till now, we have been looking at tungstate minerals like Scheelite, Raspite, Ferberite and Hübnerite. In these tungstate minerals, tungsten is fully oxidized to W^{6+}. In Tungstenite, tungsten is partly oxidized to W^{4+}. In other words, we might say that Tungstenite is less fully "weathered", compared with the tungstate minerals.

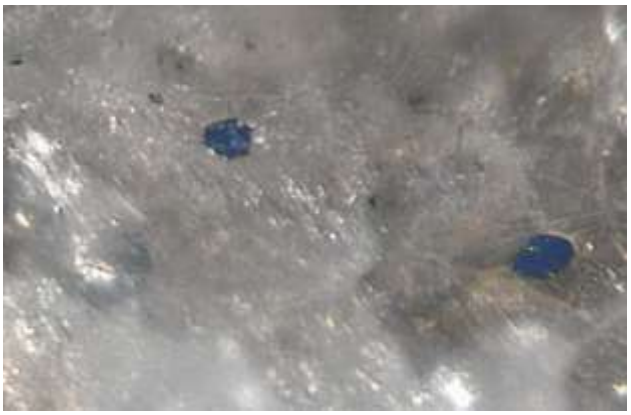
Tungstenite WS_2 is analogous to two minerals we have recently looked at: Molybdenite MoS_2 and Rheniite ReS_2. They are all soft gray sulfide minerals with metallic luster that look hexagonal like Graphite; and, like Graphite, Molydenite and Tungstenite are used as dry lubricants. Rheniite is far too rare to be used for anything. Tungstenite is slightly harder than Molybdenite (Mohs 2½ compared with Mohs 1-1½). Rheniite has a hardness of 1¼.

The crystal structure of Tungstenite is complicated. Mindat says that Tungstenite is trigonal 3 *m* – ditrigonal pyramidal, but Mineralein Atlas says that Tunstenite is hexagonal 6/*mmm*, www.mineralatlas.eu/lexikon/index.php/MineralData?mineral=Tungstenite. (There are some nice pictures of Tungstenite on this page also.) Comparing Molybdenite provides a clue. There are two forms of Molybdenite, Molydgenite-3R, which is trigonal 3 *m* – ditrigonal pyramidal, and Molybdenite-2H, which is hexagonal 6/*mmm*. So, it appears, upon further investigation, that there are also two forms of Tungstenite. In contrast, Rheniite is triclinic 1^{-}. To my eye, they all look like thin hexagonal leaves. Here is my favorite photo of Tungstenite from Mindat: www.mindat.org/photo-272083.html.

The only locality with aesthetic crystals of Tungstenite is the Crevola d'Ossola Quarry, Ossola Valley, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola Province, Piedmont, Italy. The Mindat photo cited above is from this locality. Thanks to Tony Nikischer of Excalibur Minerals, one of these Italian Tungstenites has just come into my collection. The shape of the crystal is distorted by being squeezed into a small cavity in the marble; it outgrew its home.

Tungstenite on marble from Crevola d'Ossola Quarry, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola Province, Piedmont, Italy. Photo by Michael Pabst. FOV 2 mm. Stack of 5 photos using stereomicroscope. (The white dust is bits of marble that won't wash off.)

Elsewhere on the specimen, there are tiny Tungstenite crystals (~0.1 mm) that have been protected by being embedded in Phlogopite mica, and these show the hexagonal form.



Tungstenite crystals embedded in mica from the specimen above. Photo by Michael Pabst. FOV 1.5 mm. Crystals are ~0.1 mm across.

By the way, tungsten is the heaviest element used in biology. Some prokaryotes (bacteria and such) use tungsten as a cofactor for a variety of enzymes, where tungsten functions like the molybdenum found in some human enzymes.

Continued next page

Tungstenite continued

Manganese
The next element I plan to investigate is manganese. It is found in many enzymes, in both higher forms of life, like humans and other mammals, and in lower forms, like slime and slugs. (Sorry if "lower forms" makes you think of Congress.) An example is the enzyme superoxide dismutase-Mn, that keeps your mitochondria from auto-oxidizing. Mitochondria are little powerplant organelles inside cells that burn fuel and convert oxygen to water. (Sorry if that reminds you of the "midi-chlorians" that power the "Force" in *Star Wars*.)

As you know, manganese makes beautiful minerals. A touch of manganese gives the color to the beryl crystal shown here:

Red Beryl from the Ruby Violet claims, Wah Wah Mountains, Beaver Co., Utah, colored by traces of manganese. I took this photo about 35 years ago with Kodachrome 25 slide film. It is a single photo taken with a 50 mm Minolta macro lens. I scanned the Kodachrome slide and subjected it to Photoshop. FOV 8 mm (height of crystal is also 8 mm). (Green Beryl or "Emerald" is colored by traces of chromium and vanadium.)
I hope you enjoyed this little preview of upcoming articles on manganese minerals.

GeoWord of the Day and its definition:

green beryl A term applied to the light green or pale green gem variety of beryl, as distinguished from the full green or richly green-colored emerald and the light blue-green aquamarine.

aspidolite an olive-green trioctahedral mica: $NaMg_3(Si_3Al)\ O_{10}(OH)_2$. Syn: *sodium phlogopite; wonesite.*

A **vug**, **vugh**, or **vugg** (/vʌg/) is a small to medium-sized cavity inside rock. It may be formed through a variety of processes. Most commonly, cracks and fissures opened by tectonic activity (folding and faulting) are partially filled by quartz, calcite, and other secondary minerals. Open spaces within ancient collapse breccias are another important source of vugs. Vugs may also form when mineral crystals or fossils inside a rock matrix are later removed through erosion or dissolution processes, leaving behind irregular voids. The inner surfaces of such vugs are often coated with a crystal druse. Fine crystals are often found in vugs where the open space allows the free development of external crystal form. The term *vug* is not applied to veins and fissures that have become completely filled but may be applied to any small cavities within such veins. Geodes are a common vug-formed rock, although that term is usually reserved for more rounded crystal-lined cavities in sedimentary rocks and ancient lavas.

The word *vug* was introduced to the English language by Cornish miners, from the days when Cornwallwas a major supplier of tin. The Cornish word was *vooga*, which meant "cave".

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.

45th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium April 19-22,2018

By Kathy Hrechka, Editor

This year's symposium reflected both the passing of Bill Pinch and the retirement of the conference chairman, Steve Chamberlain.

Even though the symposium began on Thursday afternoon, I only attended Saturday and Sunday morning. I enjoyed Jeff Scovil's program on "What's New in Minerals". John White, former Smithsonian curator of Gems and Minerals 1963-1991 gave an exquisite view of his personal endeavor, "Collecting Single Crystals". Barbara Sky showcased her favorite Barites.

Quintin Wight delivered "The Scientific Value of Micromounting". He detailed the European history and need for collecting microminerals. Quintin highlighted the late Dr. Barwood, and barwoodite, as well as John Ebner with his microscope museum. Quintin credited micromounter, Joe Marty for providing many unknown minerals to Tony Kampf, who has written more than 90 new mineral descriptions. Tony Kampf named thirty-one species after the micromounter who collected the original specimens. At the symposium, Quintin also hosted a "Micromounter's room" just for attendees with microscopes. It was a great social location reserved for micromounters.

Steve Chamberlain case "In the Field"

Barbara Sky "Barites"

Willow & Quintin Wight, Canada

45th Annual Atlantic Micromounters' Conference Review #II: April 6-7, '18

By Dave MacLean, President

Featured speaker; Herwig Pelckmans from Antwerp, Belgium "The Many Faces of Fluorite"

The first written reference to fluorite can be traced back to 1529, when Agricola described "fluores" as a substance used to lower the melting point of iron ore. The name he chose derives from the Latin verb "fluere" meaning "to flow". In 1747 Wallerius referred to fluorite as "spatum vitreum", rock without ore but with a vitreous luster. The word "fluorite" appeared for the first time in print in 1797.

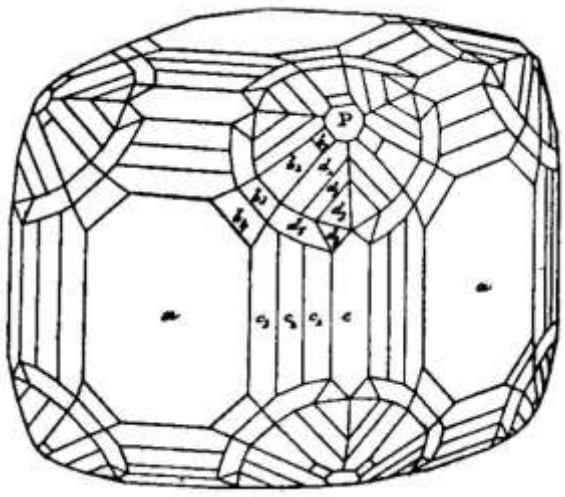
In turn, fluorite has given its name to the element fluorine. Lavoisier was the first to recognise that there was a "missing" element. Ampère realized the missing element was to be found in fluorite and thus gave it the name fluorine. In 1886 Moissan was finally able to isolate fluorine (as a gas) after earlier investigators failed. Some researchers even died from hydrofluoric acid (=HF) poisoning. Since WWII elemental fluorine is an article of commerce and is still used to separate U235 from U238 as gaseous UF6.

Fluorite is CaF_2. Pure calcium fluoride is colorless and does not fluoresce. Fluorite containing trace amounts of other elements or vacancies in its structure might show color and/or fluorescence. Fluorite can accommodate replacement of calcium of up to 30% by weight yttrium and sodium as yttriofluorite XXX. Fluorite from the Rogerly mine in England fluoresces in daylight. Iridescent fluorite, due to an extremely thin layer of organic matter on top of the fluorite, was found in the Auglaise Quarry in Ohio.

There is a fluorite mine in SE Germany where the fluorite releases a choking gas when broken. Studies showed that the gas possessed the ability to oxidize iodide to iodine. Apparently, this fluorite contained traces of fluorine gas! The fluorite in the mine also contains trace amounts of uranium whose energetic alpha and beta particle emissions kick electrons off fluoride ions leaving fluorine trapped in the fluorite.

Fluorite crystals have faces of up to 7 different basic crystal forms: the cube, octahedron, dodecahedron, trapezohedron, tetrahexahedron, trisoctahedron and hexoctahedron. About 3/4 of all fluorite crystals show the cube (6 faces); about ½ of them have dodecahedral faces (12 total), and only ¼ will show octahedral faces (8 total). Herwig showed photos of various combinations of the three most common crystal forms of fluorite including the cuboctahedron and cubododecahedon.

Much rarer crystal forms include the tetrahexahedron, the trapezohedron and the trisoctahedron (all 3 having 24 faces) and the hexoctahedron (48 faces). Combinations of 2 or more of these basic crystal forms make for crystals with many faces, up to a mind blowing 338 faces on a single fluorite crystal! High pressure, high temperature and solution saturation favors the formation of octahedral fluorite crystals.



Most complex crystal on record, shown above: no less than 338 faces! Fluorite from Devonshire, United Kingdom, © Victor Goldschmidt, 1918

Herwig showed photos of various fluorites including some unusual shapes from China (stalactite), Nashik and Kalaguani in India ("eggs, balls"), Eifel region ("pearls, mushrooms, icicles, corkscrew"), Germany, Thailand and Arizona ("ox eye"), USA.

Continued next page

Fluorite (color zoned crystals) and calcite, Denton Mine, Hardin County, IL *Photo by Herwig Pelckmans*

Two recommended reference books on this fascinating mineral are:
* Fluorite, the Collector's Choice, published by Lithographie in 2006, and
* The Crystal Forms of Fluorite, a beautiful photo book by Eddy Van Der Meersche (2014).

Pelckmans, is the president of Mineralogical Society of Antwerp (Mineralogische Kring Antwerpen MKA) following his retirement as a data base administrator. Herwig's conference topics included; Belgium and Mineralogy, The Many Faces of Fluorite, The Unknown Mineralogist, and Topaz and Friends. We valued the extensive research which was apparent in each of his presentations. He also brought a sweet distraction of hand delivered, Leonida chocolates from Belgian.

John, Herwig, Hillar, Kathy, and Karen: chocolates!

Atlantic Micromounters' Conference

By Hillar Ilves, Retired Physicist in Maryland

By tradition, about 30 of us gather once a year for a micromineralogy symposium in Alexandria, VA. People gather from VA, NY, TN, PA, MD, and this year our guest speaker, Herwig Pelckmans from Antwerp, Belgium. The VA based group calls itself the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area, Inc. and names its event the Atlantic Micromounters' Conference.

The pursuit is all varied interests in minerals which one mostly finds only in tiny sizes. The fields of view of the crystals in the photos taken of them, vary from about 2 millimeters down to 0.04 millimeters, the latter seen with scanning electron microscope. The shapes and colors are amazing and delightful, from perfect glass-clear spheres, to mushroom shapes, to spines, countless crystalline shapes, etc. Mounting these specimens for viewing, mainly through low power binocular macro-scopes, derives the name "micromounters".

The conference began 6 PM Friday and ran to 9 PM Saturday. I spent the daytime hours of Saturday there, enjoying the company, the sample minerals to purchase and freebies, the delightful lectures by Herwig, photographing minerals, the lavish buffet luncheon, and the surprise large trays of Belgian chocolates, which Herwig so kindly brought from home.

At site www.dcmicrominerals.org you can learn more about the group and still see the listing of the event, Herwig's biography, and his four informative and fascinating presentations, given in flawless English with even good command of our idiomatic expressions and forms of joking. At the end of the afternoon's presentation, the group presented Herwig with some gifts, the main items being, as a kind of joke I suppose, Hershey Chocolates from PA.

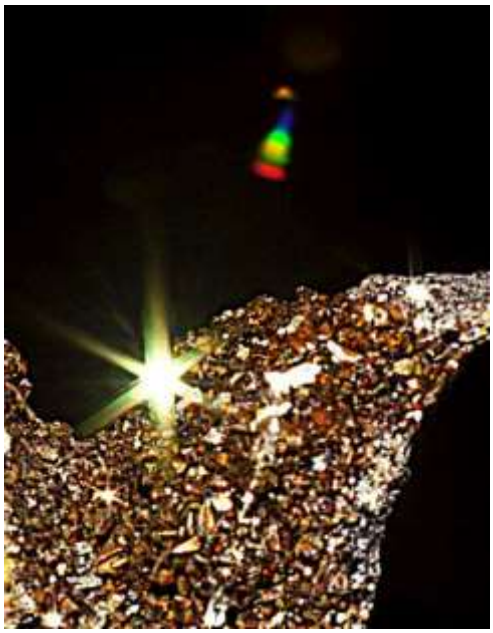
Herwig's mineralogy group's website is located at www.minerant.org (mineralogists of Antwerp).

AMC Conference continued

The following macro photo from within a vug, was done by me with a m3/4 digicam and a 50mm macro lens + helix extender to form images life size on sensor. Digital Camera on tripod (Panasonic Lumix G-1 from 2008, a micro 4/3 size sensor which is half the linear size of a full frame 35 mm sensor, namely 13x17mm and thus 1/4 the area of a full frame)

Macro lens (Minolta Macro Rokkor 50 mm, f/3.5 which focuses down to 1:2 meaning half-life size on sensor. Attached between lens and camera body is a helix extender which allows focusing down to 1:1, which is life size. When you then view the image on a computer screen, it may be 300mm or about 17X. The light was a common spotlight, the type we use to illuminate opaque specimens under our stereo macroscopes (vice microscopes).

On a specimen of Barite on Siderite from Frostburg, MD starting with file ...236, my intent was to capture some star diffraction patterns, rather than display the minerals. The light reflected brightly from one or another tiny facet. By stopping the lens down to its smallest aperture, f/22 (which due to macro lens distance of lens to sensor is still much smaller than f/22) the wave nature of light causes diffraction at the edges of the lens iris, producing one long star ray for each iris edge. Due to the brightness of the light, some of it, sometimes, is reflected through the lens at some odd angle, causing the rainbow colors to be formed by the prism effect of some of the lens glass.



Smithsonian Tour for Pelckmans

By Kathy Hrechka, Editor & AMC chair

We were delighted to have Herwig Pelckmans as our AMC speaker this year. In gratitude, he was welcomed "behind the scenes" in the mineral sciences department by Dr. Russ Feather.

Dr. Feather & Pelckmans in the "Blue Room" with a large Kelly Mine smithsonite on the counter top.

Pelckmans is standing next to the grave stone "Sacred of the memory of James Smithson, Esquire Fellow of the Royal Society of London who died in Genoa, Italy June 26, 1826, age 75 years". James Smithson is the founder of the Smithsonian Institution.

Photos by Kathy Hrechka

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)
www.amfed.org

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies

(EFMLS)
www.amfed.org/efmls

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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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)

Communication and Involvement Are the Keys to Our Success!

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

Geology Events:

April

21: Vulcan Manassas quarry trip - Dave Lines of the So. MD club has invited us to join his group at the Vulcan Manassas quarry at 0715 sharp. Hard hats, steel toes, & eye protection are standard safety requirements for each person. Kids as young as 8 years old can join if they too have this personal protective gear and a parent/guardian is present. Please let me know if you are interested by this Wednesday, April 18th Cheers, Dave Fryauff
Phone (240) 277-7206.

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

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

May

2: MSDC- Mineralogical Society of DC meeting Meet in the lobby of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History at 7:45pm.

19: 29th Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show 10 AM – 4 PM Attention New Location: Parkville Armory - Parkville, MD 3727 Putty Hill Ave. Parkville, Md. 21236 FREE ADMISSION - Top Mineral Dealers, Original Jewelry, Fossil Dealers, Rough & Cut Gemstones. Silent Auctions, Door Prizes, free minerals for kids.
Directions: Take I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to exit # 32- North (Rt. #1 Belair Rd). Proceed two traffic lights to Rossville Blvd. turn left and proceed to Putty Hill Ave. The Armory is on the Left.

www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org

Dixie Mine in Vicinity of Forest Fire

By Tom Tucker, Past President MNCA

A Forest fire is currently in vicinity of the Dixie Mine. You may recall my interest in the Dixie Mine, and its interesting phosphate minerals. This past Friday I was traveling through the area with Susan and Ed Fisher, and we noticed abundant smoke on the mountains. As we got closer we noticed the cross-mountain highway, VA 56, was blocked, and we passed a few fire fighting vehicles.

It turned out that the previous afternoon a motorist driving on VA 56 had tried to turn his car around and got stuck in the roadside ditch. His vehicle caught on fire, and that in turn started the forest fire. He had to walk all the way down the mountain to notify authorities because of lack of cell phone service. By Friday evening the fire was said to cover 1000 acres, with no containment. The fire had burned to the north, encompassing Dogwood Hollow, and thus passing by the vicinity of the Dixie Mine. The fire is still burning Monday morning, with containment expected to require a few more days.

It'll be interesting to see how the fire affects the hike up Dogwood Hollow, and up the mountain to the mine. The fire didn't appear to have burnt in the area of the Kelly Bank, a drastically reclaimed mine at the mouth of the Hollow.

Fire photo by Sandra Berry - News Leader

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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Editor's Note:
By
Kathy Hrechka

Send your articles and photos to your editor.
Club Article Deadline is 5th of each month.
***The Mineral Mite* will be emailed on 10th.**
No newsletter July/August

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