MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope

No. 239

Summer 2002

Next Meeting

July 20, 9AM to ? at the home of Gordon Jackson Canterbury, NH

Map and directions are on back page

Dues are $10/person or $15/family for the calendar year, payable to MMNE and mailed to the membership chairperson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please add the following to your membership list:

New members/returnees:
John Buckley
95 Green St., Wakefield, MA
(781) 245-8365
Edna Lerer
68 Pompositticut St., Stowe, MA 01775-1107
(978) 897-2630
Sam and Gabe Pavadore
217 Walpole Street, Canton, MA 02021
(781) 389-1298
Malcom Prescott 4 Eddy Ct., Ware MA
Jim & Eileen Ross, 109 Main St., Terryville, CT 06786
Sidney Pomper and family
11 Meachen Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776
Ted Straiton and family
159 Chapman Place, Leominster, MA 014
Scott Whittemore, 8 Goldfinch Lane, Nashua, NH 03062-2243, (603) 355-4010
cyrtolite@aol.com

Changes/corrections (***in bold italics***):
Patricia and Robert Barker
barker@eagle1st.com
Russell Buckingham
Room 275, Country Meadows of Wyomissing
1802 Tulpehocken Rd, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Betty Sevrens
(603) 536-2050
Angie Teixeira
25 Chappell St. ***Box 14B***
Robert Whitmore
934 S. Stark Hwy., Weare, NH 03281

Please Note: Anita Hubley received a nice letter from **Russell Buckingham** indicating that he now has Parkinson's Disease and was forced to sell both his home and his mineral collection. He still wants to keep in touch via the *Newsletter* and said that he really missed the May meeting. He would love to hear from other members. His new address is listed above.

MAY REUNION MEETING MARLBOROUGH, MA

The May 18th, 2002 Reunion Meeting is now a very happy memory. Despite the snowstorm on Rte 2 (2 1/2 inches in Phillipston and 4 inches in Templeton) everyone made the journey to the Moose Lodge safely. When Phyllis Leighton, Betty Sevrens, and I arrived at 9:30 a.m. there was already a good deal of activity going on. Jim Cahoon, Jim Warner , and Gene Bearss were spearheading the arrangement of tables, chairs, and overflowing boxes. Bob Janules, Hal Herard, Mike Swanson, and George and Doug Rambo had the Give-away Table spread out it in only a matter of moments. As soon as Edna Lerer arrived with her famous trolley, the Sale Table was organized as well. New this year was a silent auction of mineral books and bulletins, a rock splitter, and a microscope. Most of these were donated to the Club by President Cahoon. The Cares added a micromount cabinet, and Betty Sevrens donated some older issues of "Rocks and Minerals" and other leaflets from Palmer's collection. Gordon Jackson had a pile of Pete Samuelson's newly published diary, "Chasing Rainbows", that were sold with a profit of $5.00 for the Club.

What brought happy tears to my eyes was seeing a coffee urn with the red light showing and cups, sugar , cream, and stirrers in place when I arrived. Good Show, Jim Cahoon, for organizing this with the caterer!

The girls - Phyllis, Betty, Margaret, Josephine, and Pat - decided where the morning snacks should be set up. Besides the required donuts, annually donated by Pat, we also had Margaret's traditional veggies and dip, Phyllis' angel food cake, and Betty's spicy pecans. A delicious cake had been prepared by Josephine MacIndewar, and Pam Jackson added some scrumptious chocolate chip cookies.

Shortly after 10:00 it appeared that everyone had successfully followed Mike Swanson's map and John Stewart's signs and were being

The *Newsletter* is the official publication of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE). The last by-laws revision was 1966. The MMNE is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) (cf <http://www.amfed.org/efmls>) and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) (http://www.amfed.org). Material from the *Newsletter* may be copied in other rock and mineral publications if credit is given to the author and the *Newsletter* unless the author has reserved all rights in which case written permission must be obtained from the author. If there are questions regarding copying contact the editor. The club address is c/o the Corresponding Secretary. Meetings are held monthly, September through May, except for December, and usually on an informal basis in July and August. Sites rotate and will be posted in the *Newsletter* as far in advance as possible. Visitors are welcome to attend all meetings. Bring a microscope and light source if you have one.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

North Shore Rock & Mineral Club micromounters
2nd Wednesday every month
at the home of John and Margaret Stewart
244 Mill St., Burlington, MA (781) 272-0854
CVMC micromounters - contact Fred Wilda

June 2002

21-23 Northern California Mineralogical Assoc. conf.
Contact: Sugar White, 2 Summit Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373-6848 (909) 798-3635
e-mail: rbwhite@gte.net
29-30 Gilsum Rock Swap, Gilsum, NH

July 2002

8 - Tailgate Mineral Show, Poland Springs Mining Camps
Rte 26, Poland ME. 8AM - 5PM
6 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip
7 - DeMix/Varennes collecting trip
20 - MMNE meeting at home of Gordon Jackson
94 Borough Rd., Canterbury, NH. Pot luck.
27 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip
27-28 - Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show
Burlington Gem & Mineral Society
F. Tuttle Middle School, Dorset St nr. Kennedy Dr.
South Burlington, VT

August 2002

3-4 - Mid-State Gem & Mineral Show
Water-Oak Gem & Mineral Society, Mt. Merci School
142 Western Ave., Waterville, ME
9 - 11 Springfield Mineral Show, Big-E Fairgrounds
West Springfield, MA

September 2002

7 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip
8 - DeMix/Varrenes collecting trip

October 2002

5-6 Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Capital Mineral Club
Sunapee State Park, Rte 103, Newbury, NH
MMNE set-up on Saturday
26 - Mont St.-Hilaire collecting trip

WEB SITES AND OTHER REFERENCES OF MINERALOGICAL INTEREST

Errata page for "Dana's New Mineralogy"
www.minerant.org/dana/errata.html
Old 15' topo maps of New Hampshire and New England
http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm
Canadian Rockhound webzine (free with back issues on line - www.canadianrockhound.com
Micromount discussion group on line
http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/groups/micromounts
World-wide alkaline localities
koeln.netsurf.de/~w.steffens/ (not viewed by your editor)

Little Known Facts about BOUNCE® and Coke
Courtesy of Josephine MacIndewar

BOUNCE®...the stuff you use in your dryer:

Repels mosquitoes. Tie a sheet of Bounce® through a belt loop when outdoors during mosquito season.

Eliminates static electricity from your TV screen. Since Bounce® is designed to help eliminate static cling, wipe your television screen with a used sheet of Bounce®

Dissolves soap scum from shower doors with a used sheet.

Freshens/deodorizes the air in your home, car, suitcases, sneakers, wastebaskets, etc..

Cleans baked-on food from a cooking pan. Put a sheet in the pan, soak overnight, and sponge clean.

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Continued from page 1 - Marlborough

processed through Margaret Stewart's Registrar's Table. There they received a nametag, a souvenir bulletin prepared by Jim Cahoon, and a door prize ticket.

Edna Lerer's Sale Table was opened for business at 10:00, and her booth was soon the busiest place in the hall. She and Hal Herard had collected and organized members' gifts over the past year, and it made an impressive array. Edna and Hal had donated many things from their own collections as well, and Edna had her usual candy baskets that are very tempting.

Elaine and Jose Sole and Marcelle and Charlie donated some nice minerals. So good to see all four of you, after last year's health problems.

Also generously donating minerals were Bob Janules and Mike Swanson, Janet and Steve Cares, Ilene and Ted Staneski, John and Margaret Stewart, Josephine MacIndewar (minerals from Arizona). Betty Sevrens and Phyllis Leighton had donated items from Palmer's and Frank's collections, Dick Stenberg, Pat Barker (from Tucson and from her German trading pals). George and Doug Rambo had contributed a marvelous collection of minerals-on-cards, and they also donated those neat no-hands-needed magnifier tools. Steve Reutlinger donated minerals and some of his handmade wooden stands. Gene Bearss had provided many of his choice Bennett Quarry and Estes Quarry treasures as well as specimens from Gene Mechler's collection that had been generously donated by his wife, Alice. Gene had worked on these all winter long to get them ready for this Event.

Thanks to Anita Hubley for her efficiency and to her family, John and Chris, who helped other people unload and set up, as did Norm Biggart, who carried equipment when help was needed. Thanks also to Anna and Bob Wilken and Julie and Herb Fielding for their continuing support.

Everyone was having such a marvelous time that hardly anyone noticed that the rain outside had turned to sleet - but the caterers had! They accomplishing a miracle, preparing a hot lunch out on the wheelchair ramp! Somehow they set-up the whole buffet operation right in the hall. We all enjoyed an outstanding indoor picnic. Best ever, opined many. Thanks to Jim Warner for organizing this luncheon.

After lunch Gene Bearss, our speaker, gave his program on the Microminerals of the New England Pegmatites, finishing up with the beautiful Estes Quarry in East Baldwin, Maine. This lecture and slide program was very popular and beautifully illustrated with slides, mostly taken by Gene. (By the way, Gene donated $125.00 of his honorarium to Rocks and Minerals Color Fund. The rest he turned back to the Club treasury.)

Continued next column

After Gene's talk we had the raffle drawing for a matted and framed mineral picture donated by Pat Barker, and 12 framed mineral pictures given by Hal Herard. Janet and Steve Cares donated the numerous attractive door prizes, and they were eagerly sought after by the lucky winners. By 3:30 p.m. the rain, snow, sleet had let up, and John Stewart was able to hold his Annual Egg Crate Tailgate Party in the packing lot. It was such a very satisfactory day that most people, even those who had come from a long distance, were reluctant to leave.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone who helped to make the day such a success. Please let me know!

Pat Barker, Corresponding Secretary

Coke - continued from page 1

And now, Coke:

To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coke into the toilet. Let the "real thing" sit for one hour, then flush clean.

The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous china.

Remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a crumpled-up piece of aluminum foil dipped in Coke.

To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coke over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.

To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coke to the rusted bolt for several minutes.

To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of Coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coke will help loosen grease stains.

It will also clean road haze from your windshield, and... WE DRINK THIS STUFF!

So, send this out to all of your friends who you think should know all about the things you can do with BOUNCE® and Coke.

Ed note: With the success Coke demonstrates in removing rust, perhaps it would work well for removing iron stains from mineral specimens. REMEMBER it does contain a weak acid, so be sure to test potentially acid– soluble minerals such as phosphates with a disposable sample first.

MICROMINERALS OF THE HAVEY #2 QUARRY TOPSFIELD, MAINE

There are over a hundred pegmatite locations in the Topsfield, Maine area, several of them known for quality specimens of topaz, aquamarine beryl, almandine garnet, uraninite, magnetite, or schorl. The Havey #2 Quarry boasts drive-in accessibility and a few of the rarer microminerals in Maine. I visited this locality twice in the late nineties, and I'm still breaking up matrix and finding good stuff. Driving directions to this locality are detailed in " A Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Localities", available through the Maine Geologic Survey online at:

http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/pubedinf/pubs/plmin.htm

The quarry was originally mine for feldspar, and has essentially no lithium mineralization. The quarry's dump pile has been harvested for road building, but may still have material to collect. I believe it is still accessible.

This locality is famous for thorogummite $Th[(SiO_4), (PO_4)]_{1-x}(OH)_{4x}$, but I didn't know that during my first visit. In fact, my best find was a nest of gemmy pale green beryl pencils to 6cm, frozen in a feldspar boulder. This 30-cm piece of matrix is still begging to be trimmed to a more manageable size, but an ominous crack already threatens to shatter some of the beryl, so it remains an awkward chunk. Most of the dump consisted of a bland medium grained biotite-oligoclase pegmatite, white and black everywhere. Standing out against this monotonous background were pink stained patches of feldspar, which I thought might be something special, perhaps montmorillonite, so I brought some home with low expectations. I didn't find much else that day, so I moved on, I think to the Square pit garnet locality.

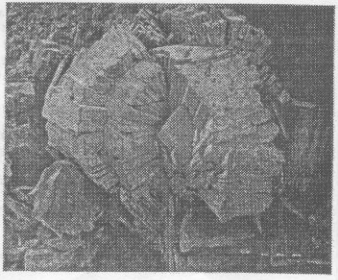
At home I discovered that some of the pink stained matrix contained bright yellow grains under the loupe (I didn't own a microscope yet). A check of the collecting guide's mineral list for this quarry mentioned thorogummite, and when I looked up this mineral in Volume 1 of Van King's "Mineralogy of Maine", the description fit. Colors range from the pale yellow of refrigerated butter to the intense yellow-orange of butterscotch candy. They are usually opaque with a resinous luster, but I have one crystal that is gemmy and beer colored. They are usually anhedral, but frequently they take a tetragonal form with a pyramidal termination. Gemmier anhedral grains occur within smoky quartz. All fluoresce pale yellow-green in short wave UV . All are frozen in matrix; there are no vugs. Apparently, thorianite ThO_2 and grayite $ThPO_4.H_2O$ also occur there, and are so similar to thorogummite as to be indistinguishable to my eye.

The thorogummite is said to be among the best examples known. It has been found to contain a significant amount of aluminum, and a small amount of calcium as substitute cations.

Associated micro-phosphates include xenotime-(Y) $Y(PO_4)$, monazite-(Ce) $Ce(PO_4)$, and autunite. The xenotime occurs in fragile, waxy, light green bipyramids, usually fractured as the matrix is split open. Epitaxial growth on zircon has been described from this locality, though I haven't found it to my knowledge. I did find some xenotimes penetrated by thorogummite or monazite, a nice combination. The monazite is a more lustrous reddish brown, monoclinic (though it looks orthorhombic), and has picket fence-like terminations. Small magnetites are reminiscent (of and) recall the larger examples a few miles to the south on Standpipe Hill. If I ever make it to a meeting, I'd be happy to show some mounted specimens and share some unprocessed matrix.

Paul Gilmore prgilmore@hotmail. com

Tsepinite-Na



Korobitysynite

KOROBITSYNITE AND TSEPINITE-Na FROM MONT SAINT-HILAIRE

Laszlo Horvath

The recent expansion of the eudialyte group from one member to 8 has already given us MSH collectors a fair amount of grief. We all recall that uncomplicated time in the not too distant past, when anything that looked like eudialyte was called eudialyte, and we knew what we had. No longer, as you all know, and the expansion of the group is not over yet. There is only a pause for a new nomenclature, and after that I am sure there is going to be more Russian-sounding mineral names to remember. If you think that the eudialyte group is getting complicated, you are in for a surprise when you see the details on the forthcoming nomenclature of the labuntsovite-nenadkevichite group. There are already 17 members in the group with a few more already in the works, and Dr. Igor Pekov, one of the principal researchers working on this group, expects the numbers eventually to exceed 25. Many of the new members have been approved by the IMA CMMN, but not published and the names are unmentionable at this time. The nomenclature will be published at the beginning of next year when I will attempt to review the group as it relates to MSH and St-Amable. However , with the recent publication of tsepinite-Na, it seemed like a good time to add this mineral and korobitsynite to the MSH species list and give a short description of them based on what we know. The tsepinite-Na was identified last year (even before its IMA approval) and the korobitsynite earlier this year by Dr. Pekov. Specimens of both species were collected a long time ago and resided in our collection as nenadkevichite. Many other MSH nenadkevichites and labuntsovites from different finds and associations were investigated by Dr. Pekov, most turned out to be correctly identified. It would not be surprising however, if some of the other members of this group turned up at MSH in the future, but the identification is becoming complicated, time consuming and expensive.

Korobitsynite $Na_{3-x}(Ti,Nb)_2[Si_4O_{12}](OH,O)_2{\cdot}3\text{-}4H_2O$

Korobitsynite, an orthorhombic member of the labuntsovite-nenadkevichite group, was originally described from both Mount Alluaiv and Mount Karnasurt in the Lovozero alkaline complex, Kola Peninsula, Russia (Pekov et al., 1999). At Alluaiv korobitsynite occurs as colourless, prismatic crystals up to 2 cm long and at Karnasurt as anhedral grains up to 1 mm in diameter. Mont Saint-Hilaire, Vishnevye Gory massif, Ural Mountains, Russia and the Aris phonolite in Namibia are the other known localities.

The Mont Saint-Hilaire korobitsynite identified from the Horvath collection was found in cavities in igneous breccia on level 6 of the former Demix (now central-western part of the Poudrette) quarry in August 1976. It occurs as peculiar "wagon wheel" aggregates 2-3 mm in diameter, of colourless to pale gray, prisms. The SEM photo shown here first appeared in the Mineralogical Record (Horvath and Gault, 1990 page 326, fig. 97). Associated minerals included microcline, albite, aegirine, titanite, pyrrhotite, strontianite, molybdenite and zircon. Other specimens from the Canadian Museum of Nature and the Tarassoff collections have also been tentatively identified but may need IR data for confirmation.

PEKOV, I.V., CHUKANOV, N.V., KHOMYAKOV, A.P., RASTSVATAEVA, R.K., KUCHERINENKO, Ya.V., and NEDELKO, V.V. (1999) Korobitsynite, $Na_{3-x}(Ti,Nb)_2[Si_4O_{12}](OH,O)_2{\cdot}3\text{-}4H_2O$, a new mineral from the Lovozero massif, Kola Peninsula. *Zapiski Vserossiyskogo Mineralogicheskogo Obshchestva*, **128**, (in Russian with English abstract); abstracted in Mandarino, (2001). MANDARINO, J.A. (2001) *New minerals 1995-1999*. Canadian Mineralogist, Special Publication, No.4, 131.

Tsepinite-Na $(Na,H_3O,K,Sr,Ba)_2(Ti,Nb)_2[Si_4O_{12}](OH,O){\cdot}3H_2O$

Tsepinite-Na, a new monoclinic member of the labuntsovite-nenadkevichite group, was described from Khibinpakhchorr, Khibiny massif (Tl) and Lepkhe-Nelm, Lovozero massif, Kola Peninsula, Russia (Shlyukova et al., 2001). Mont Saint-Hilaire is the only other known locality for the mineral. The MSH specimens (2) identified as tsepinite-Na in the Horvath collection (were) found around 1981-82 in a pegmatite dike in nepheline syenite. It occurs as vitreous, opaque, white, short prismatic crystals up to 4 mm long, associated with rhodochrosite, cataplciite, aegirine, serandite and natrolite.

SHLYUKOVA, Z.V., CHUKANOV, N.V., PEKOV, I.V., RASTVETAEVA, R.K., ORGANOVA, N.I., and ZADOV, A. E. (2001) Tsepinite-Na, $(Na,H_3O,K,Sr,Ba)_2(Ti,Nb)_2[Si_4O_{12}](OH,O){\cdot}3H_2O$, a new labuntsovite group mineral. Zapiski Vsorossiyskogo Mineralogicheskogo Obshchestva, 130, 43-50 (in Russian with English abstract).

Reprinted from the CMMA "Micronews" Nov/Dec 2001