

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

The MMNE was organized on November 5, 1966, for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope

March 1994

Newsletter #175

PRESIDENT

Fran Morrison
182 Pine Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

VICE-PRESIDENT

Angie Teixeira
33 Kossuth Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

SECRETARY

Patricia Barker
P.O. Box 810
Campton, NH 03223

TREASURER

Janet Cares
18 Singletary Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776

EDITOR

Shelley Monaghan
12 Conant Drive
Brockton, MA 02401

Dues are \$6.00 per year and are due on January 1st, payable to the Treasurer.

Contributions of news items for the Bulletin are welcome and should be sent to the Editor

This bulletin may be quoted if credit is given. Club address is c/o Editor.

NEXT MONTH:

Our next meetings will be **Saturday, April 9, 1994** at the Northborough Public Library.

The March meeting of the MMNE will take place on Saturday, March 5, 1994 at the Sudbury Public Library.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Larry Pitman, an Associate at the Harvard Mineralogical Museum. The topic will be descriptive mineralogy, which will cover qualitatively all of the techniques involved in identifying minerals and in characterizing new species. Techniques discussed will include X-ray methods, electron microprobe analysis, and various other chemical and physical procedures. (Larry, along with Carl Francis and David Lange, co-authored the recent article describing the new mineral Szenicsite, which was recently featured at the Tucson show.)

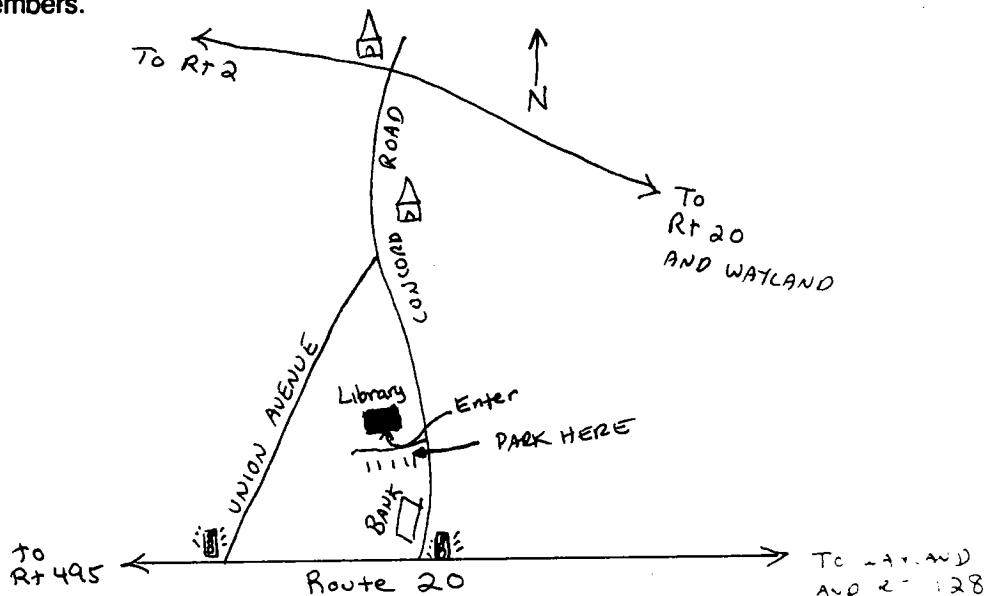
Book Auction

At this meeting we will omit our swap/flea market as space and time is needed for the book auction. Books will be available for pick-up to those persons who submitted the highest bids.

Gem & Crystal Treasures

There is a close out sale of a well known mineral book. Jean McKenna informed us that Peter Bancroft's book "Gem & Crystals Treasures" is available. If eleven persons wish to buy the book, it would cost about \$20 per purchase. The book originally retailed for \$60. If members express an interest, we will look into it.

Members are asked to bring in material for the May meeting. We need material for both give-aways and the sales area. Please separate and label to make it easier for distribution. As a reminder, your name should be written on the box or container, so that a list of donors can be published in the bulletin, and so that inquiries regarding the material can be made by other members.



MEMBER NEWS

We are glad to report that member Forrest Fogg is at home and recuperating from his recent surgery.

Halogen Lamps are Safe

(From the Australian Faceters Guild via the AFMS Newsletter, Nov. 1993)

The Minister of Justice and Consumer Affairs, Senator Michael Tate, has announced there is no danger in using tungsten halogen lamps of up to 50 watts.

Guild members will recall that last year an officer of the Australian Radiation Laboratory claimed skin damage could result from using tungsten halogen reading lamps for prolonged duration. The new report by Senator Tate, following an investigation, says: eight hours of exposure to a 50 watt tungsten halogen lamp is equivalent to five minutes exposure to sunlight! The minister's report added that exposure to halogen lamps resulted in the same ultraviolet emissions as similar forms of artificial lighting. For those who want to pick bones on the minister's statement, he went on to provide the following information: at 1000 lux (1000 candlepower per square meter or more than double the intensity of office lighting) UV radiation is approximately one percent of the equivalent UV radiation in sunlight.

At light intensities of 1000 lux, eight hours use of an unfiltered 50 watt lamp at practical working distances is approximately equivalent to five minutes exposure to sunlight.

Senator Tate went on to say that other than in exceptional circumstances, the use of unfiltered tungsten halogen desk lamps is assessed at practical working distances. He said desk lamps using tungsten halogen globes may exceed occupational limits of UV radiation at close distances and anyone with skin sensitivity to UV should avoid exposure to halogen desk lamps without filters. (AFMS Ed note: skin sensitivity may be significantly enhanced in persons taking large and sustained doses of aspirin as in the treatment of severe exacerbations of arthritis, and in persons taking oral methoxalen as in the treatment of psoriasis. For additional information, consult with your prescribing physician.)

Silver

by Paul E. Smith (from the Mineral Mite, January 1994)

I bought a ball of silver at the Montgomery club meeting in December. I had examined it and discovered quite a few small pieces loose in the bottom of the box which, upon examination with my loupe, appeared to be small fingers of silver crystals. Every time I picked up the ball, I could tell I was dislodging small bits of silver, so I carefully wrapped the specimen and paid for it then with no hesitation.

Immediately upon getting home, I placed the specimen under my microscope, and sure enough, the ball was made up of hundreds, maybe thousands, of tiny, dendritic or fern-like crystals of silver, and the bits and pieces loose in the box were exquisite little branches all ready to be mounted. I found that even my cactus needles were too large for most of the single leaves, but if I was careful and acted fast enough before the glue hardened, I could capture several bits of the silver on one needle and hide the point of the needle.

My real problem was how to preserve the mass of crystals and prevent the shedding of the crystal as the ball rolled around in the box. It was not possible to glue it down without forever ruining a large number of the beautiful bits of silver, and Mineral Tac was of no use either. Someone had attempted that method and had merely captured a layer of silver on the bottom of the box.

I described my dilemma to Fred Schaefermeyer, who suggested running pins through the sides of a box into the ball and suspending it in that manner with no parts of the silver ball touching the sides of the box. I found a box of long pins in the sewing machine drawer. The pins had white heads (balls) that were must perfect to keep the pin from going through the box. I heated the pin red hot in the flame of the gas cooking stove and quickly and carefully burned a hole through the plastic box on three sides. By carefully positioning the silver ball and impaling it on one pin at a time (the entire length of the pin penetrated the silver very easily), I now have the main specimen safely in a plastic box with the original label fastened to the box with Mineral Tac.

Since I have never seen silver crystals formed in a ball like this one, I am now trying to obtain information that will help explain how this many crystals formed in this manner. There is no other matter embedded with the silver and the crystals are not firmly packed, although the ball is rigid enough to feel quite solid when picked up gently.

I have a lifetime supply of tiny silver specimens in this one specimen and will gladly share with others who have interesting specimens and silver specimens in particular.

(The Editor of the Mineral Mite notes that the silver ball came from the Ura Mine, New South Wales, Australia.)

The Micromounters of New England meet regularly every month except for June, July, August, and December. Informal meetings are held in July and August. The May meeting is a pre registered event. Dates and locations of regular meetings are printed in the bulletin. Advance notice of the next month's meeting appears on the front page, lower left-hand corner. Arrival and departure times vary with each location but are not usually earlier than 9 AM and later than 5 PM. Members bring along microscopes, lights and minerals for study, trade and possible identification. Members provide their own lunch (except for the May meeting); the club provides coffee/tea. Dues are due on January 1st of each year, and are \$6.00 per member.

While every attempt is made to keep this membership list accurate, some errors or omissions may occur. Any inadvertent errors/omissions will be corrected at the earliest possible printing.

1994 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Joseph Arons
401 1st Avenue, #15-D
New York, NY 10010
(212) 889-3896

Ralph & Violet Carr
25 Farnum Road
Warwick, RI 02888
(401) 467-3823

James Grandy
524 Brooksvale Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 248-0440

Patricia & Robert Barker
P.O. Box 810
Campton, NH 03223
(603) 536-2401

Richard Champlain
15 Burr Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371
(203) 434-5092

Sue Hadden
RR 3, Box 305
Grafton, VT 05146
(802) 875-3562

Gene Bearss
33 North Avenue
Sanford, ME 04073(207) 324-3610

James Clark
18 Central Street
Topsfield, MA 01983(508) 887-5881

Les & Marge Hitchings
10 Church Street
Saugus, MA 01906
(617) 233-4868

Norman Biggart
4 Baron Park Lane, Apt. 1
Burlington, MA 01803
(617) 272-1537

Fred Colby
3772 Heath Road
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Bob Janules
17 Woodward Road
Merrimack, NH 03054
(603) 424-9269

Robert Boggs
10434 22 Avenue S.W.
Seattle, WA 98146-1333
(206) 242-7485

Chris Coolen
56 Wyman Street, Apt. #2
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 522-9479

Dana Jewell & Inga Burggraf
100 Lynn Fells Pkwy
Melrose, MA 02176
(617) 665-2756

Robert. Brackley
11 Gerrish Drive
Sanford, ME 04073

Harold & Doris Doller
22 E. Shore Drive
Massapequa, NY 11758
(516) 799-6309

William Kelly
4 Lawndale Road
Stoneham, MA 02180
(617) 245-2014

Russell Buckingham
1859 Baldwin Rd.
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
(914) 962-3216

John C. Ebner, Jr.
P.O. Drawer J
Manasquan, NJ 08736
(908) 681-3451

Michael W. Kieron
38 Merritt Road
E. Providence, RI 02915
(401) 434-0281

John S. Buckley
95 Green Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
(617) 245-8365

Herbert Fielding
48 Butters Row
Wilmington, MA 01887
(508) 657-7463

Walter & Carolyn Lane
RD 1, Box 245B Gore Road
Alfred, ME 04002
(207) 324-5934

Steve & Janet Cares
18 Singletary Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
(508) 443-9180

Forrest & Vera Fogg
1040 Gorham Pond Road
Dunbarton, NH 03045
(603) 774-6450

Frank & Phyllis Leighton
Templeton Rd 1
Phillipston, MA 01331
(508) 249-4261

Edna Lerer
68 Pompositticut Road
Stow, MA 01775
(508) 897-2630

Eugene Mechler
115 Chipola Ave #513
Deland, FL 32720

Shelley & Bob Monaghan
12 Conant Drive
Brockton, MA 02401
(508) 586-3541

Dana Morong
117 Piscataqua Bridge Road
Madbury, NH 03820-6805

Frances & George Morrison
182 Pine Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 726-2931

James Parella
32 Pattison Street
Worcester, MA 01604
(508) 756-6619

Richard Pershken
150 Surrey Drive
Bristol, CT 06010
(203) 583-3909

Lawrence C. Pitman, Jr.
61 Williard Grant Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
(508) 443-3110

Meredith Porro
55 Bulfinch Street
Lynn, MA 01904
(617) 592-1481

Emile Rappa
15 Spring Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
(413) 594-4847

John Reiner
RFD #1, Box 54-12, Krainewood Dr.
Center Harbor, NH 03226
(603) 253-4489

Violet Robinson
15 Walnut Avenue
E. Rochester, NH 03868
(603) 332-0519

Elaine Solé
188-02 89 Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423
(718) 776-3823

Richard Spellman
28 Godfrey Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

Margaret & John Stewart
244 Mill Street
Burlington, MA 01803
(617) 272-0854

Michael Swanson
29 Chestnut Hill
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 773-3867

Johannes Swarts
P. O. Box 271
E. Thetford, VT 05043
(802) 333-4354

Bettee Taparowsky
27 Circuit Avenue
Worcester, MA 01603
(508) 757-5457

Angie Teixeira
33 Kossuth Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 722-4545

Marcelle & Charles Weber
1172 West Lake Avenue
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 457-9810

Robert Whitmore
Route 2
Weare, NH 03281
(603) 529-2621

Scott Whittemore
8 Goldfinch Lane
Nashua, NH 03062
(603) 888-1174

Margret C. Withers
314 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 227-6865

Holmes Wilson
42 Nancy Drive
Cumberland, RI 02864
(401) 333-0623

Joel Yancey
19223 Lomond Blvd
Shaker Heights, NY 44122
(216) 283-5159

EFMLS DIGEST

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3
FEBRUARY, 1994

INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETIES, INC.



PRESIDENT - STEVEN WEINBERGER, PO Box 302; GLYNDON, MD 21071. (410) 833-7926
1ST VICE PRESIDENT - ERSTON BARNHART, 633 NORTH WEST ST; CARLISLE, PA 117013. (717) 243-3320
2ND VICE PRESIDENT- TOM MILLIGAN, 1107 IVORY FOSTER RD; OWEGO, NY 13827. (607) 687-2859
SECRETARY - MADELINE TODD, 114 WOOLSEY AV; GLEN COVE, NY 11542. (516) 676-1806
TREASURER - SYBIL CHURCHWELL, 2005 ROCKWELL RD; ORLANDO, FL 32808. (407) 295-8967
ASSISTANT TREASURER - HOWARD BINKLEY, Rt 1 Box 281A; BUTLER, GA 31006. (912) 862-5556
EDITOR - CAROLYN WEINBERGER, PO Box 302, GLYNDON, MD 21071. (410) 833-7926



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I have been most pleased with the prompt response of most clubs to our annual call for membership renewal. By sending in early you ensure the smooth flow of communication to all members of your club. Remember also, to send the EFMLS Secretary and Editor updates whenever your club officers change throughout the year.

We will be having our Executive Board meeting on Saturday, March 12 in the Baltimore area. If you have any questions or concerns that you want the Board to discuss, please sent them to your regional Vice President or directly to me. Our theme - "Communication is the Key to Our Success" - enables us to consider your ideas. As Anne Morrow Lindbergh said. "Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after." □

Steve

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the EFMLS Executive Board, hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, will be held on Saturday, March 12, 1994 at Hunt Valley, MD (just north of Baltimore off I-83). The main topics for discussion at this meeting will be 1) the upcoming AFMS dues increase and its effect on EFMLS dues; 2) the Federation insurance policy and 3) an update of many of the operating procedures. If you or your club members have any questions which you would like the Executive Board to discuss at this time, please mail them (on club stationary) to President Steve Weinberger no later than February 15.

Although this is mainly an Executive Board meeting, all members of EFMLS clubs are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a sit-down mid-day dinner planned for those who attend.

Host hotel will be Embassy Suites. Rooms are \$89.00 per night and include free breakfast. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at (410) 584-1400. Be sure to indicate that you are with EFMLS.

The mid-day meal will feature a choice of chicken marsala (\$15.00) or roast brisket of beef (\$16.00) Salad, vegetable, potato, desert and beverage are included. Tax and gratuities are included. Please make dinner reservations directly to Steve Weinberger (please make checks payable to Steve).

Keep involved with your EFMLS! We hope that you can join the Executive Board on the 12th for this most important and interesting meeting. □



THE EASTERN FEDERATION FOUNDATION FUND

NOW HERE'S THE OFFER



Did you know that the EFMLS Foundation Fund was set up to provide endowment funds to ensure a sound financial basis for the present and future operation of YOUR Federation? Individual and club ontributions are encouraged and welcomed by Chairman George Max.

Contributors are recognized with the following designations: \$15 - Quartz Contributor; \$25 - Topaz Contributor; \$50 - Sapphire Contributor; and \$100 - Emerald Contributor. A club plaque is awarded at the 100% level of \$1.00 per member. All contributions should be sent to the EFMLS Endowment Fund, % Treasurer Sybil Churchwell. (address above). □

1994 DUES RENEWAL

The press date for the 1994 Directory is fast approaching. A few clubs have not yet sent in their dues and renewal forms. Please check with your Treasurer and President to see that your club is not one of these. Remember...in order to participate in the Wildacres Workshop, EFMLS insurance program, slide program, or other Federation activities, you must be a member of a club in good standing. □