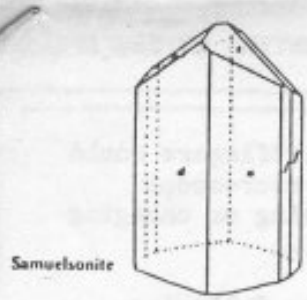


MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

MAY 1986 NEWSLETTER #107

The next meeting of the Micromounters of New England is our special Northeast Meeting on Saturday, May 10, 1986 at the 4-H Convention Center in Ashland, Mass.

By now we hope that all of you have registered for this meeting and are looking forward to this event and our speaker, Curt Segeler. Just a few reminders: Please remember to bring extension cords, three-way adapters and other electrical supply needs that you will probably use. If you are bringing give-aways, make sure that they are either mounted on cardboard or in a closed container with the donor's name included with the mineral descriptions. If you have last-minute items to donate to the sales table, please put a price on these donations (Edna will have enough to do handling sales and so forth); it would be a great help. If you have promised some sort of refreshment, remember to bring that too. (Contact Phyllis Leighton if you are considering bringing something to share in the line of goodies.) Also, if you are so inclined, bring your camera, as the lady-slippers may be in bloom again this year!

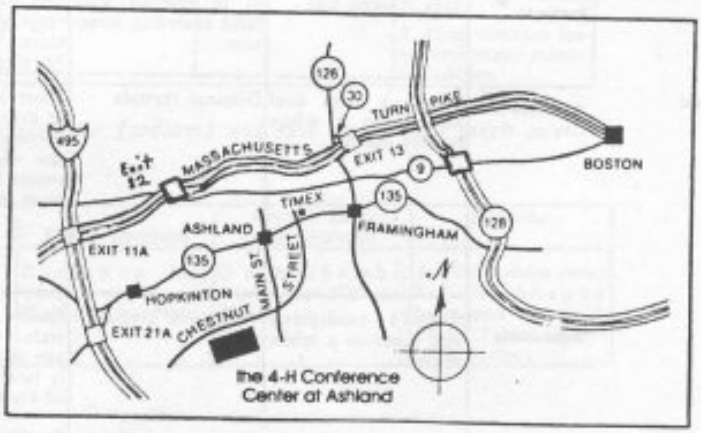
Congratulations to our newly-elected officers--Frank Leighton, President; Neil Briggs, Vice-President; Janet Cares, Treasurer; and Betty Sevrens, Secretary. They will assume their offices at the close of the May meeting.

Additions and changes in the Membership List:

Add: Janet Van Iderstine
2 Tulip Lane
Huntington, CT 06484
(203)929-3404

James Clark
18 Central Street
Topsfield, MA 01983
(617)887-5881

Change: Walter Cooper
from: Box 83
to: Box 239



PRESIDENT

Palmer Sevrens
94 Pearl Street
Woburn, MA 01801

VICE-PRESIDENT

Frank Leighton
Templeton Rd 1
Phillipston, MA 01331

SECRETARY

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Dues are $3.50 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 Bulletin Editor.

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This bulletin may be quoted if credit is given.

→ NEXT MONTH

There will be no June meeting of the MMNE. Our next two meetings in June/July are informal and will be announced in our Summer issue.

MICROTIP: Did you know that handling your quartz halogen bulbs with your fingers could seriously damage the bulb? If you do have quartz halogen bulbs in your microscope illuminators, remember to handle them with a cloth or tissue when adjusting or changing bulbs.--S.N.M.

FROM THE CMMA MICRONEWS: From Bob Beckett of Lakefield, Ontario comes the following... In the February issue of International Thumbnail Mineral Collectors "Thumbnail News" is the information that the first French Micro Mineral Association has been formed. Anyone interested, contact Mr. B.Duriez, 56 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, 75014, Paris, France. The Association has a quarterly newsletter. 4/86

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The following table appeared in Rocks And Minerals Magazine in August 1941:

SCHEME FOR TESTING --ZEOLITES, et al

I. Minerals that fizz or dissolve readily in hydrochloric acid:—

	Behavior in Test	Additional Test	Crystal Form, Cleavage and Luster	Remarks
Calcite	Fizzes and dissolves completely in cold acid.	1. Contains no water. 2. Infusible.	Rhombohedral crystals made up of sets of 3 or 6 faces. 3 perfect cleavages (rhombohedral) Medium vitreous luster.	Usually translucent or transparent with slightly yellowish tinge. Usually crystallized
Thaumasite	Fizzes and dissolves in acid.	1. Contains water. 2. Boiling down the acid solution deposits a jelly-like mass of silica. 3. Almost infusible.	Masses of felted or parallel short needles or fine granular. Luster silky to dull.	Color white with definite greenish transluscence. Very soft.
Selenite	Does not fizz. Powder dissolves in hot acid with ease.	1. Fusible 2. Contains water.	Usually not distinct crystals in trap rocks. Perfect basal cleavage. Medium pearly to vitreous luster.	Easily scratched by fingernail. Perfect (almost micaceous) cleavage.

II. Do not dissolve readily in acid. Fuse and impart some color to the flame:—

A. Color the flame green:

	Fusion	Usual Structure	Crystal Form and Cleavage	Remarks:
Datolite	Swells and fuses to a bubbly white enamel.	Glassy crystals.	Crystals unsymmetrical looking — wedge shaped. No cleavage.	Often greenish. Hardness: 5-5.5.

B. Color the flame faintly orange-red, or violet:

Prehnite	Swells and forms a dark colored slag.	Green rounded masses of crystals with faint radiating structure.	Exposed crystal ends lath shaped with diverging striations on sides. No cleavage.	Hardness 6-6.5
Apophyllite	Swells a great deal and forms a white bubbly enamel.	Distinct crystals	Short square prisms or pyramids. Perfect basal cleavage — forming a square face with medium pearly luster.	1. Prism faces vertically striated. 2. Colors flame violet, but may be obscured by yellow of sodium. 3. Contains water which reacts acid (turns blue litmus paper red).
Heulandite	Swells moderately and fuses to a white enamel.	Distinct crystals	Coffin - shaped crystals. Perfect cleavage and strong pearly luster on long side of crystal.	Oblong or lozenge shaped cleavage face with strong pearly luster.
Laumontite	Usually difficultly fusible.	Diverging cyrstals.	Small prisms with oblique terminations Rectangular cleavage	Usually opaque, white and very easily crumbled.

B. Color the flame faintly orange-red, or violet (con't.):

	Fushion	Usual Structure	Crystal Form and Cleavage	Remarks:
Selenite*	Fuses quietly.	Laminated masses.	Perfect cleavage—almost micaceous.	1. Usually transparent and colorless. 2. Easily scratched by fingernail.

C. Color the flame strongly yellow (sodium) and fuse without swelling:—

Albite*	Fuses with difficulty to a clear glass.	Crusts or rounded bunches of tiny crystals.	Very small rough prisms. No cleavage visible. Harder than glass.	1. Either opaque white or pink. 2. A low temperature form — quite different from the Albite of pegmatites, etc.
Natrolite	Fuses easily—to a clear glass.	Radiating white needles or coarser prisms.	Prisms have square cross section with flat or low pyramid terminations. Cleavage — prismatic at 90° angle (seen in massive variety).	1. Not luminescent. 2. Crystal ends nearly always visible. 3. Not so compact as pectolite.
Pectolite*	Fuses easily—to an opaque white bead.	Radiating silky white masses—compact.	Crystal ends thin lath-shaped. No cleavage visible.	1. Buff fluorescence and phosphorescence under Iron Spark. 2. Yellowish triboluminescence.
Mangan-Pectolite and Stevensite*	Almost infusible.	Altered forms of pectolite.	Indistinct.	1. Mangan-pectolite, fibrous, usually reddish. 2. Stevensite becoming compact and waxy
Analcite	Turns white — then fuses to a clear glass.	Distinct crystals.	Almost invariably trapezohedrous. No cleavage.	

D. Color the flame strongly yellow (sodium) and fuse easily with much swelling to a white enamel:—

Stilbite	Throws out branches that curl up and finally fuse together.	Sheaf-like groups or balls of broad flat crystals.	Coarse flat crystals vertically striated and usually pointed Cleavage parallel to long flat side—with weak pearly luster.	Usually yellowish or brownish with very bright vitreous luster.
Chabazite	Only moderate swelling.	Distinct crystals.	Almost cubic rhombohedrons. No cleavage visible.	1. Usually some shade of pink grading into yellow and brown. 2. Full of internal bubbles.
Gmelinite	Similar to Chabazite.	Similar to Chabazite	Similar to Chabazite	1. Crystal faces built up of many smaller ones. 2. High vitreous luster and many internal bubbles.

D. Color the flame strongly yellow (sodium) and fuse easily with much swelling to a white enamel (cont'd.)

	Fusion	Usual Structure	Crystal Form and Cleavage	Remarks:
Thomsonite	Pronounced swelling.	Radiating silky white masses, or sheaf-like bundles.	Orthorhombic prisms—usually not distinct.	1. Not luminescent. Radiating fibrous balls have very high silky luster when broken open.

*not a zeolite, but may be associated with zeolites.

Submitted by Patricia Barker