



# 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. 248

September, 2003

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**Next Meeting**  
Sept. 13 (Saturday)  
Westford, MA  
J.V. Fletcher Library  
10AM - 3PM. Bottom  
floor room

**Map and directions are  
on the back page**

For information regarding  
MEETING CANCELLATION  
due to inclement weather,  
contact President Jim  
Cahoon at  
(978) 897-8221 or  
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## IN MEMORIAM

### MARCELLE JUANITA HORN WEBER

September 19, 1918 - July 8, 2003

Marcelle Weber, a long time resident of Guilford, Connecticut, died at home on July 8, 2003 after a brief illness. Marcelle was born on September 19, 1918, in Randolph County, Indiana. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Charles Henry Weber, Jr., her daughters, Ruth Weber Hoffman and Martha Jane Weber, and her son, Charles H. Weber, III.

Marcelle graduated from Roger Ludlowe High School, Fairfield, Connecticut, and in 1940 earned an AB in Business Administration from Indiana University. After graduating, she returned to Fairfield to work at Remington Arms, and subsequently served as private secretary in her husband's business as manufacturing representative. Over many years she was actively involved in national, state and local chapters of some dozen lineage societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, etc.

A nearly lifelong passion for mineralogy led to Marcelle's recognition as one of the most knowledgeable and respected amateur mineralogists in the U.S. and Canada. She had a remarkable ability to sight identify minerals, especially from her favorite locality, the Poudrette Quarry, Mont St.-Hilaire, Quebec. Her memory was phenomenal, allowing her to give year and month for any important find or trip to Hilaire. Marcelle was an avid photomicrographer, lecturer and author, taking her message to micromount symposia and conferences throughout North America. Over the years, she was instrumental in persuading many an amateur to pursue an interest in mineral collecting, to progress to the study of micromounts, or to join the fraternity of advanced collectors at Mont St.-Hilaire. As a result of her work, she was the first woman named to the Micromounters Hall of Fame. She was an active member of the Friends of Mineralogy (Secretary), Micromounters of New England, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Baltimore mineral Society, the New Haven Mineral Club (President), and the Stamford Mineral Club (President).

Marcelle and Charlie first visited the Poudrette Quarry in 1968. Since then, they visited the quarry some 240 times, traveling approximately 180,000 miles to do so. Their diligence at collecting there, and Marcelle's reluctance to throw any specimen away, are attested to by the mountains of beer flats crowding everything else from their cellar, and leaving only a six inch gap between the tops of the stacks and the ceiling! In the early 1990's at Hilaire, they discovered, and supplied the type material for, a new mineral that was ultimately named charmarite-2T in their honor. Specimens of charmarite-2T and others from their extensive collection are held by the Smithsonian Institution, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and other institutions.

Donations in Marcelle's memory may be sent to the Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443 Station D, ATTN Mr. Robert Gault - Confidential, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada.

William A. Henderson, Jr.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Historically the *Newsletter* has consisted of occasional original articles from the membership, articles culled from other newsletters and sources, and information relevant to micromounting and the membership. Over the past couple of years, the contribution of articles from the membership to the *Newsletter* has essentially been nonexistent with minor exceptions. Trying to fill out a six page *Newsletter* with my own ramblings and articles culled from other sources has become increasingly difficult. There has been a consistent effort to produce a six page *Newsletter*, but that has become all but impossible now. Unless there are significant objections, one of two options will be instituted: either the number of pages per issue will be reduced, or the number of issues per year will be decreased. Since the cost for mailing the *Newsletter* is the same for one or six pages and the biggest expense is the postage, common sense would indicate that the most sensible plan would be to publish five issues per year - September, January, March, May and Summer. The good side is that the cost of the *Newsletter* will be reduced by about 50% per year (and there have been many complaints in the past about the increase in dues which is almost all due to rising postage and publication costs). The downside is that the club will need to have information regarding the annual meeting in April (elections and bylaws changes) and the May Symposium ready a little earlier than in the past. Additional issues can be added as interesting articles become available.

I realize that some members depend on getting the *Newsletter* about a week before the meeting as a reminder, but does that justify putting together a *Newsletter* nine times a year? One option would be a postcard reminder just before each meeting with the meeting maps sent out once or twice a year as a package and a full sized *Newsletter* four or five times a year.

Options for membership contributions could be collecting trips stories - even the negatives are worth printing - sales, trade, and want lists, short articles on a mineral or a site, membership sketches, etc. Members could review the current mineralogical literature (Min. Rec., R&M, Australian J. Min., Matrix, Lapis, Revista, etc.) and make capsule reviews. We do not need Pulitzer prize quality material.

Maps and directions for the September (Westford), October (Home of Vera Fogg), and November Chelmsford meeting sites are enclosed (Thank you Norm Biggart for your work on the maps). Please hold on to these for future reference in case we choose to go to a less frequent *Newsletter*.

I would appreciate comments and suggestions from the membership. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Add the following new member to your membership list:

David DeChristopher, 127 Glendale Rd., Agawam, MA 01001: (413) 335-7582. daved@gcq.net

Add the following renewals to your membership list:

Paul Gilmore, 15 Fossen Way, Andover, MA 01801. (978) 681-1097. prgilmore@hotmail.com.

Ken Hollman, PO Box 134, Center Rutland, VT, 05736-0134. (802) 747-1443. chessylite@adelphia.net.

Edna Lerer, 68 Pompositticut St., Stow, MA 01775-1107. (978) 897-2630

Josephine MacIndewar, 72 Ryder Ave., Melrose, MA 02176. (781) 665-9107

Note the following address change:

Mike Swanson, 646 Greenfield Rd. Leyden, MA 01301-9400. (413) 773-3867. msmicros@crocker.com.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dear Members:

This meeting in September has unfortunately been scheduled on a day when one of our well respected members, Gene Bearss, cannot be present. Today he is going to be miles away and to be highly honored. Because our meeting place is miles away from that ceremony, if any of our members plan and do attend that ceremony, it will be understandable to all of us. We do not make these meeting schedules with a disregard for events of special note to our members but with the availability of meeting places. The organization in Maryland has honored other of our members which causes us to be alert to their activities. The distance between us, although many miles, is very close when discussing our interests. Please may all of our members consider that the Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium has once again given a special honor to another of our members. We shall miss Gene's presence but be most grateful that his absence today is also to be a special honor to him - induction into the Micromounters Hall of Fame.

Norm Biggart

## COLLECTING AT MONT ST.-HILAIRE IN 2003

The 2003 collecting season at Mont St-Hilaire has been significantly different from past years. The corner pegmatite which many of us have depended on for wonderful specimens and a great diversity of species has become buried under a pile of crushed rock (as of the July 26/27 trip). The blasting and quarrying techniques have been changed - the blast size is now about three times larger than in prior years, and the 6-8 inch layer of rock dust and finely crushed rock which is usually scraped off before a blast is being left in place (apparently this makes for easier crushing). This means that the fresh blast material is often covered with a thick layer of dust and fine fragments so deep that it is impossible to collect in some of the freshly blasted material.

The variety of material is much reduced, but on the other hand, the miarolytic cavities have yielded a variety of rare species if you are willing to do some heavy rock breaking. The hornfels and much of the nepheline syenite has been barren.

There will be two more trips this season - the first on Saturday, September 6, and the other a two day trip on the weekend of October 18/19. Gilles Haineault will be conducting a catered dinner with speaker to follow on the Saturday night of the October trip. As of this writing, it is unclear whether any seats are still available. Contact Gilles at (450) 584-2453 or e-mail him at [collectionhaineault@sympatico.ca](mailto:collectionhaineault@sympatico.ca) for further information.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to go on the last July trip to Mont St.-Hilaire, there was an additional bonus - Sunday was a one day trip to the DeMix-Varrenes Quarry. The collecting was, by all accounts, excellent, the best in the past few years. I have not had a chance to go through all the material which I brought back, but it looks promising. The Varennes trip is usually held once a year in conjunction with one of the July Mont St.-Hilaire trips. Keep your eyes open for next year's trip.