

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc., meeting in State College, Pennsylvania
Contact information on back page

April, 2020

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

No April Events

David Glick, NMS President

As Pennsylvanians stay at home to avoid spreading the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, Nittany Mineralogical Society has no events planned for April. It's much too early to tell whether our May 20th meeting might take place.

It's hard to believe it has been four weeks since I was adding cancellation notices to the March NMS Bulletin up until the last moment before printing it and getting it to the post office.

We canceled Minerals Junior Education Day, which had been planned for the last Saturday in March. We will investigate the possibility of holding it later in the year. We thank everyone - students, parents, club members, and volunteers - for your support.

We had been looking forward to the start of Dr. Andrew Sicree's weekly Junior Rockhounds meetings late in March. After the stay-at-home order is over, we will re-evaluate when it might be best to start those meetings. Watch the web site and this Bulletin for any updates.

All of us at NMS sincerely hope that everyone is in good health and will continue to be well. We look forward to being together again.

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies

Annual Convention

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Hickory Metro Convention Center

RESCHEDULED TO October 23-25, 2020

The Catawba Gem and Mineral Club invites all delegates and guests to their **50th Annual Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show** to be held in association with the annual EFMLS Convention in Hickory, NC. The events have been rescheduled to October 23-25, 2020.

For more information, registration forms, etc., see
<http://cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.html>

While We Can't Travel:

Virtual Geo-Resources

While many of us are stuck at home, museums and professional organizations may be offering new material to view on the internet. **Penn State's Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery** has been adding "virtual museum" postings on <https://www.facebook.com/EMSMAAG/>.

The **Smithsonian** continues virtual tours, such as https://naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/NMNH/z_tour-022.html.

Geological Society of America has compiled an Online Education Resource Guide, which includes links to third-party offerings that might be useful. A short link is: <https://t.co/BVwZaJddEm>.

At this time many items linked from the Resource Guide are available to non-members. For example, the webinars on careers and career development, and GSA e-books, are available to all through June 30. Available as an e-book is GSA Field Guide volume 47 (2017), *From the Blue Ridge to the Beach: Geological Field Excursions across Virginia*; its first chapter is *Geology along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia*.

Mineralogical Society of America also has interesting content available to all. For example, the web page for the textbook *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*, written by M. Darby Dyar and Mickey E. Gunter with illustrations and animations by Dennis Tasa, at <http://www.minsocam.org/msa/DGTxt/>, has a link to all the images, animations, and videos (free) associated with the book. There's also a large section on teaching mineralogy and petrology online: http://www.minsocam.org/msa/Teaching_Resources.html. While you're at the MSA web site, look at the center of the home page <http://www.minsocam.org/> and see whether you recognize the MSA Ambassador sketched there.

FEDERATION NEWS

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc., is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. **The Federations and our Society strongly encourage all members to read the monthly Federation Newsletters, available on their web sites**, which are linked from our web site, www.nittanymineral.org. We present brief summaries here in order to encourage readers to see the entire newsletters. There's a lot there!

EFMLS leaders want **you** - the club member - to see the **Newsletter**. Please see it at <https://efmls.org/newsletter> (also linked from the NMS home page). The April issue contains much news related to the coronavirus pandemic; see page 1 of this Bulletin for news about postponement of the EFMLS convention to October 23-25, and pages 2-3 for other articles reprinted from the EFMLS News.

The **AFMS Newsletter** April issue <http://www.amfed.org/news/> includes two Safety Matters articles, "Tools of the Trade" and "Top of the List." Juniors Program Chair Jim Brace-Thompson seeks suggestions and new activity ideas for revision of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual. He's also searching for YouTube videos and other free sources of multimedia for which he can provide links. AFMS Historian Jennifer Haley was excited to see a Facebook commercial during the Oscars and the Super Bowl which included rockhounds as an example of a Facebook user group. See the article for a link to the ad. *-Editor*

EFMLS Club Spotlight of the Month MICROMOUNTERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Historically speaking, Dr. Paul Desautels, curator of the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral collection gave a class on crystallography at the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia mineral club in 1966. He advised attendees to form their own micromineral study group while identifying minerals using a microscope. In 1967 the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area micromineral club was formed in Washington DC. Meetings were originally held in members' homes to study crystal systems, classifications, minerals, etc. Today they meet in a local nature center in Arlington, VA with microscopes for monthly meetings. They usually have a short educational program, allowing for more time to view and exchange microminerals. Members enjoy finding rare crystals in micromineral form. They basically photograph minerals using a microscope or bellows, because microminerals require ten power or greater magnification for identification. One club member photographs snowflakes outdoors each time it snows.

Each spring the club holds its Atlantic Micromounters' Conference for a weekend consisting of a keynote speaker, auctions, micromineral dealers, and geology fellowship. Each

year, for community awareness, they demonstrate their hobby at two local mineral shows. Members bring their microscopes and invite guests to view microminerals. They introduce the use of a microscope to many children, while encouraging an interest in geology aligning with STEM. Their monthly newsletter is called The Mineral Mite. Their club website is www.dcmicrominerals.org. It contains a club history as well as many photomicrographs of rare and unusual microminerals. Newsletters are archived, along with a 50th Anniversary feature.

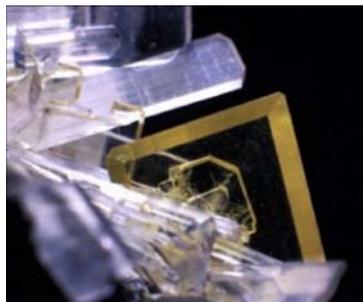
- Kathy Hrechka, Editor,
Micromounters of the National Capitol Area



Wavellite
David Fryauff



Snow Crystals
Kathy Hrechka



Wulfenite, Hemimorphite
Michael Pabst



Pyrophanite
Robert Rothenberg



Club Meeting



Merrill E. Dickinson, Sr.

April 9, 1934 - February 27, 2020

Merrill Dickinson of Gilbertsville, PA passed away on February 27. He was a member of Philadelphia Mineral Society, Tuscarora Lapidary Society, Berks Mineral Society and former EFMLS President (2014-2015, resigned September 21, 2015). Merrill is also remembered for his years of organizing field trips at Wildacres workshops. He had a private collection of rocks, minerals, gems and fossils from his local area in southeast Pennsylvania. He was generous with sharing his collectings with others. His love of the hobby led him to gem faceting and jewelry making. Merrill shared his love of being a rockhound with members of his clubs, presentations to elementary school children, at senior centers, and with the local media. An obituary can be found at legacy.com. *-from EFMLS News, April 2020*

WILDACRES

SPRING SESSION UPDATE

From Steve Weinberger, Chair,
EFMLS Wildacres Workshop Committee

I spoke with the head of the Wildacres Foundation and he explained that the facility will be closed all of April due to the coronavirus. He will make a decision in April as to whether or not to also close in May.

If it has to be closed, it will be in plenty of time to notify all registrants and refund fees. If Wildacres would be open, but we all feel that it would not be safe, again, this will be in sufficient time to let everyone know..

Let's hope that we all stay well and can keep working on our hobbies at home. *-from EFMLS News, April 2020*

NMS BOARD MEETING NOTICE

NMS members are invited to attend Board of Directors meetings, which are generally held at 7:00 p.m. about two weeks prior to the general monthly meeting, although we do not meet every month. **The next date is May 7, but may be postponed due to the coronavirus situation.** Members who would like to attend should contact president David Glick to verify time and place; those who would like to have their discussion item placed on the agenda should contact him at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ACGHNSTUW; one row or column spells mountains known for zeolite minerals. As usual, if you've read this issue, you've seen it. Each block of 9 squares, each row, and each column must contain each of the nine letters exactly once. The solution is on page 8.

H	U		N		G			C
			U	A		H	W	G
					H	N	A	U
	A	U			T		H	
T		G	A		N		U	W
W	H				S			T
	W	S			A			H
			T			U		A
							C	

25 Years Ago in NMS

In April 1995, our meeting topic was "Open Demo Night." Members were invited to bring a few color slides (a projector was provided) or recently collected/acquired mineral specimens to show to the group.

The February program, postponed one week due to an ice storm, was by John Passaneau on Micromounting: Mineral Collecting Under the Microscope. In March, Dr. Will White spoke about Minerals in Caves.

We were also preparing for the first Mineral Sciences Junior Education Day on June 10th. Egg cartons were being collected to give to the students at the event, and donations of batches of egg-sized rocks and minerals were requested. It was later reported that attendance was 150.

The Extraordinary George Frederick Kunz

By Shannon Phillips

from Crack 'N Cab, Gem & Mineral Society of
Syracuse (New York), January 2018 Vol. 48 No. 1.

Editor: Dan Andrianos

2019 AFMS Bulletin Editors' Contest

Original Adult Article Award, 6th Place Winner



One of my favorite Christmas gifts this year was 320 carats of raw kunzite. I have several pieces of the pale pink stone in jewelry,

although I don't usually gravitate toward that color, but this parcel contains rough pieces of the mineral in that are colorless, violet, and green in addition to pink. Technically, only the pink and lavender varieties are correctly identified as kunzite, named for the self-taught and wildly successful mineralogist George Frederick Kunz.

Like many of us, Kunz began collecting at an early age. His father, a German immigrant, was a baker with an interest in natural history. His mother, originally from Switzerland, raised George and his five younger siblings, first on the island of Manhattan, and later in Hoboken, NJ. At the time Kunz was living in New York, major excavations for buildings and subways were underway. There were ample opportunities for a boy to scramble down into the diggings and come away with a pocketful of treasure. After the family's move to New Jersey, Kunz became especially interested in collecting zeolite minerals from the Palisades and Watchung Mountains. It is difficult to determine how, but Kunz is reported to have begun trading minerals with European collectors, perhaps his parents had contacts in that part of the world, and by the age of 14 had created a collection of over 4,000 specimens, labeled and identified, that he sold to the University of Minnesota in the 1870s. Kunz would go on to build several more important collections during his lifetime.

Editor's note: We are grateful for the opportunity to reprint award-winning articles from last year's American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Bulletin Editors' Contest. Likewise, we are grateful that mineral collector and dealer Rob Lavinsky has made a very large number of mineral specimen images and descriptions available on wikimedia.org. Here we have provided some of those images to supplement an award-winning article.



Spodumene (Var.: Kunzite), from Gilgit, Pakistan. "Kunzite rarely forms such sharp crystals..."5.3 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Spodumene-18945.jpg



Spodumene (Var.: Kunzite), from Vanderberg Mine, Pala District, San Diego County, California. 10.1 cm. "This is a breathtaking visual piece but also happens to be a highly important kunzite specimen that is of 100% top-quality color and cutting quality, considered by many to be among the finest kunzite crystals recovered and surviving in specimen form from this famous mining district." Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Spodumene-palasd-01d.jpg

Although he had little formal schooling in mineralogy, geology, or gemology, Kunz's unwavering dedication was all he needed to make a career of his passion for gemstones. Around 1875, Kunz took a 27-1/2 carat green tourmaline, most likely acquired from Augustus C. Hamlin, M.D., whose family had been mining tourmaline in Maine for several decades, to the most prominent jeweler in New York and, allowing the stone's beauty to speak for itself, sold Charles Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Company, his first tourmaline. After several other sales of semi precious stones, Kunz was offered a position as a gemologist for the most prominent jeweler in New York. He was 23 years old. Kunz continued to work for the company for 53 years, eventually becoming its vice-president. During his time with Tiffany, Kunz changed the gemstone market forever by introducing colored gemstones to the company's upscale clientele. Although colored stones were, and remain, far less expensive than diamonds, Kunz himself wrote,

"... it seemed to me that many ladies, even those who could afford the gesture of diamond tiara and pearl choker, would be happy to array themselves in the endless gorgeous colors of these unexploited gems. As I looked over a collection of them, with the sunlight imprisoned in the sea-green depths of the tourmaline, lapping at the facets of the watery-blue aquamarine, flooding the blood-red cup of the garnet, glancing from the ice-blue edges of the beryl, melting in the misty nebula of the moonstone, entangled in the fringes of the moss agate, brilliantly concentrated in the metallic zircon, forming a milky star in the heart of the illusive star sapphire-bow, I thought, could a woman ever resist their appeal?" (Kunz, 1937).

Kunz traveled the world to bring an array of previously unseen gemstones into the public purview. In 1902, Kunz was the first to identify pink colored crystals as a unique variety of spodumene. Subsequently, the mineral was named in his honor. Fashions change over the years, but, despite the diamond industry's heavy influence over the market, particularly for engagement rings, colored stones are more popular than ever for everyday wear and for bridal jewelry.

In addition to this contribution to the world of gemology, Kunz was also a prolific writer who published over 300 books and articles during his lifetime, offering his knowledge, perspectives, and adventures for amateurs and professionals to enjoy and



Prehnite, which occurs along with zeolites in the Watchung Mountains of New Jersey. Prospect Park Quarry, Passaic County, New Jersey. 5.1 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Prehnite-250342.jpg



Thomsonite-Ca (white) on Prehnite (green), from Lower New Street quarry, Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey, 6.6 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Prehnite-Thomsonite-Ca-d06-218c.jpg



Tourmaline (green) in Quartz, Newry, Oxford County, Maine, 5.5 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Tourmaline-Quartz-157155.jpg

study into the modern day. Many of Kunz's books and articles are no longer limited by copyrights and are available online free of charge. His legacy is secure through his publications, the many collections he helped to build, and, most importantly, by the popularity of scores of semi precious stones we still enjoy.

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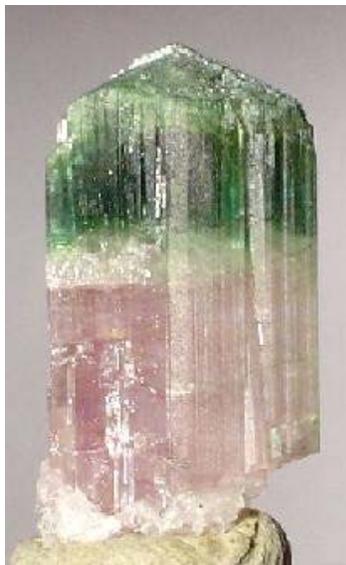
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George Frederick Kunz (1856-1932), circa 1900. Public domain image from wikimedia.org, GeorgeKunz1900circa.png



Elbaite (tourmaline) from Mt Mica Quarry, Oxford County, Maine, 2.4 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Elbaite-132456.jpg



Elbaite (tourmaline) from Dunton Gem Quarry, Oxford County, Maine, 2.7 cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Elbaite-146175.jpg

To see Tiffany & Co. jewelry made from the colored gemstones turquoise, Montana sapphire, kunzite, morganite, tanzanite, and tsavorite, go to http://press.tiffany.com/Shared/Media/Doc/ThumbSheet_187_1_1.PDF

-Editor

Pennsylvania Minerals Gallery

With many thanks to those who
make these images available.



Pyromorphite from Wheatley Mines, Chester County, PA. 2.4 cm.
Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0
license. Wikimedia.org File:Pyromorphite-37856.jpg



Calcite from Thomasville Crushed Stone Quarry, York County,
PA. 11.3 cm.; central crystal just over 4 cm. Image and data
from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0 license.
Wikimedia.org File:Calcite-183949.jpg



Copper from Adams County, Pennsylvania, USA. (Carnegie
Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA).
Image and data from James St John- CCA-BY-2.0 license.
Wikimedia.org File:Copper (Adams County, Pennsylvania, USA)
(17294207162).jpg



Antigorite from Wood's Chrome Mine, Lancaster County, PA. 4.6
cm. Image and data from Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com –
CC-BY-SA-3.0 license. Wikimedia.org File:Antigorite-204046.jpg

Some Upcoming Shows and Meetings

Our web site <http://www.nittanymineral.org> has links to more complete lists and details on mineral shows and meetings around the country. See www.mineralevents.com for more. **Verify show schedule before traveling!**

EFMLS Convention rescheduled to October - see page 1.

May 23, 2020:— Annual Show of the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, Pa, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road, Fairhills, PA. Adults \$2, children free 12 and under. INFO: Brian Schwab, www.holschw2@aol.com. OR <https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/home> or <https://www.facebook.com/LowerBucksPARocks/>

CLASSIFIEDS



Sphere Machine For Sale

Homemade but durable sphere making machine has two opposing gear motors with two spindles, all on a wheeled cart. Makes rock spheres 2-6 inches in diameter. Includes numerous diamond, cast iron and PVC grinding cups, a wide array of abrasive grits & several polishes. \$500. Contact Jim Garthe 814.667.2409 or jwgarthe10@gmail.com

Geo-Sudoku Solution

H	U	A	N	W	G	S	T	C
S	T	N	U	A	C	H	W	G
G	C	W	S	T	H	N	A	U
N	A	U	W	C	T	G	H	S
T	S	G	A	H	N	C	U	W
W	H	C	G	U	S	A	N	T
U	W	S	C	N	A	T	G	H
C	N	H	T	G	W	U	S	A
A	G	T	H	S	U	W	C	N

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

The Nittany Mineralogical Society prides itself on having among the finest line-up of speakers of any earth sciences club in the nation. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. If you'd like to be part of our Society, dues are \$20 (regular member), \$7 (student rate), \$15 (seniors), \$30 (family of two or more members, names listed). Those joining in March or later may request pro-rated dues. Your dues are used for programs and speakers, refreshments, educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. Please fill out a membership form (available at www.nittanymineral.org), make checks payable to "Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc." and send them in as directed, or bring your dues to the next meeting.

We want to welcome you!

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The **Bulletin Editor** will welcome your submissions of articles, photos, drawings, cartoons, etc., on minerals, fossils, collecting, lapidary, and club activity topics of interest to the members. Please contact:

David Glick E-mail: xidg@verizon.net
209 Spring Lea Dr. phone: (814) 237-1094 (h)
State College, PA 16801-7226

Newsletter submissions are appreciated by the first Wednesday of the month. Photographs or graphics are encouraged, but please do not embed them in word processor files; send them as separate graphics files (TIF, or good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.

Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org