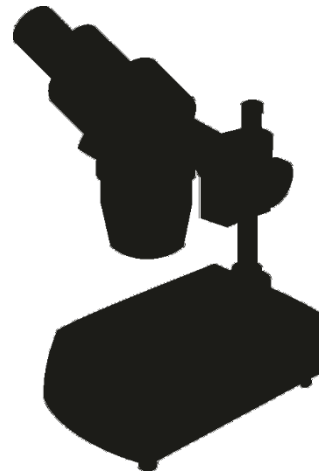


Northwest

Micro Mineral

Study Group

Micro Probe



SPRING, 2026

VOLUME XIV #3

SPRING 2026 MEETING

May 9, 2026

10 AM to 4 PM

Sons of Norway Columbia Lodge

2400 Grant St,

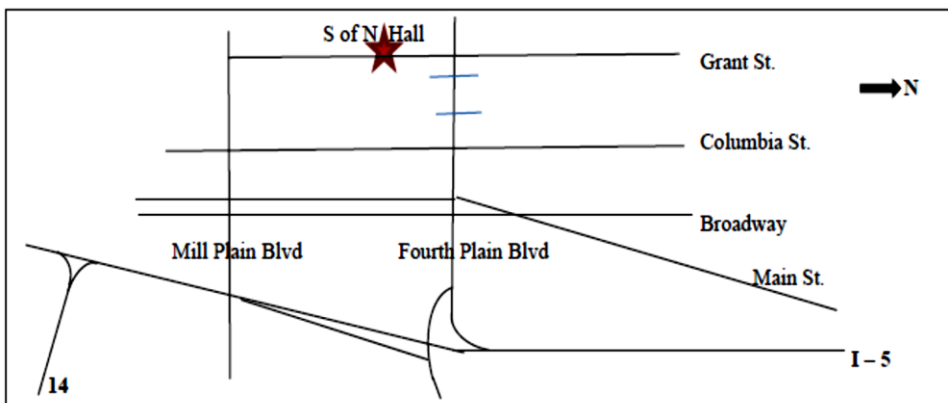
Vancouver, WA 98660

Please read the President's message on page 2 for important meeting information!

Directions:

FROM WASHINGTON HWY 14: Continue west to Interstate 5, keep right and take I-5 North. Then keep right and continue to Exit #1D -Fourth Plain Blvd

FROM INTERSTATE 5: In Vancouver, take Exit #1D to Fourth Plain Blvd. Head west on Fourth Plain Blvd. to Grant St. and turn left. Go two blocks to 24th St.



In this issue:	
Officers	2
President's message	2
Dues are Due	3
Our Facebook Page	3
Arthur Smith, Jr.	
Series Part 1	4-7
Misc. Page	8

Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group officers:

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President's Message:

Mark it on your calendars, May 9th is our Spring Meeting. **Please note the starting time of 10AM.**

Again we will have some material from the world-wide James Daly collection (Sauktown Sales). These specimens are his trimmed and prepared for sales stock. They are individually wrapped in bathroom tissue inside a zip lock bag. Each zip lock contains multiple specimens of material from one location along with one or more labels.



We will need to take care and not leave a lot of little pieces of bathroom tissue laying around to have to clean up at the end of the meeting.

Due to the nature of the material, it might be tempting to take more than what you want for your collection in order to sell them. **Please, do not.** The remainder has already been promised to NCMA.

I have finished cataloging Jim's private collection, and I ended up with 24,653 specimens. I am currently working on documenting the previous owners by posting the names on Mindat. Not only does it help me understand the history of the collection but sometimes another Mindat user comes up with an interesting story or two about their relationship with the person. Reliving the memories. 😊 I have also started photography of the specimens from Sardinia.

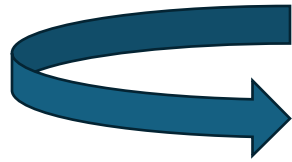
Remember to bring your lunch sandwich, or whatever, and a salad, desert or snack item to share with the other members. Coffee, water, ice and soda pop will continue to be provided.

Again, I remind you to please submit article and pictures for the Micro Probe. We all need your input. Shorter edition because not much was submitted.

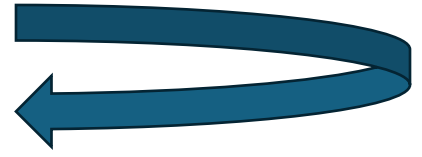
I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting, May 9th. Please bring lots of flats, boxes and buckets of minerals for the free tables. Also, any reports/projects/eye candy photos that you can share with the group.

Also, it is time for elections again. I know our Treasurer is still looking for a replacement and if someone would like to be President, please let me know. Thank you.

Beth Heesacker, President/Editor



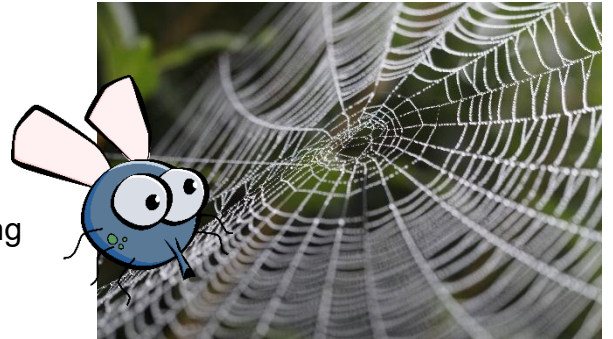
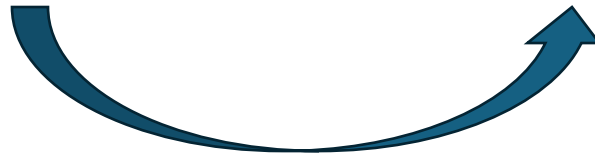
DUES ARE DUE



at the Spring meeting or by mail to Kelly Starnes:

Patrick "Kelly" Starnes
1276 SE Goodnight Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon, 97333

\$15 per year



It has been noticed for some time that attendance at the meetings is quite low and maybe we need to put some energy into acquiring more interest in the Study Group. I am not really a social media person but I am trying an experiment.

I have formed a Facebook page for us. I will occasionally post things to try to drum up interest in the group. BUT do not worry if you do not join. Anything important will always be sent to you members by email. The page is mainly to attract new people. Think of a spider's web catching the occasional fly that passes by. 😊

Here is the link to the NW Micro Mineral Study Group Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3503090626500423/?sorting_setting=RECENT_ACTIVITY





Arthur Smith, Jr.: A Series

In doing my research on the James Daly collection, I came across a very interesting “previous owner”. His name is Arthur Smith, Jr.. He is now deceased (2009) but was a very active member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and wrote many articles for their newsletter and a couple of books on Arkansas and Texas minerals. He also contributed articles to Rocks and Minerals. About 1/3 of Jim Daly’s collection is from the collection of Art Smith.

He discovered a new micro-mineral, artsmithite, which was named for him. I have acquired his Houston newsletter articles and plan on running a series in this newsletter. Most are about Arkansas and Texas but I find them interesting and I hope that you do also. Maybe they will inspire you to write an article for this newsletter.

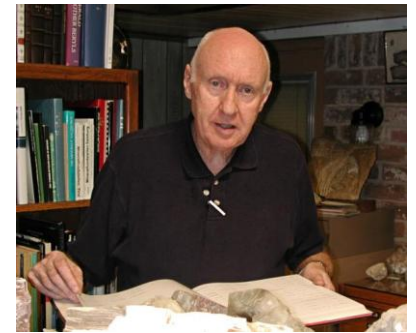
They came in a variety of formats, and I do not wish to spend my time retyping them, but I will do the best I can to make them readable.

ARKANSAS COLLECTING - FALL 1990

By Art Smith

Although our Annual Coon Creek Trip (18th) to Arkansas was late this year, the warm weather and late-turning leaves did not make it seem like the second week in November. I headed northeast from Houston to Make the eight-hour trip to Little Rock, Arkansas. To make the time of the trip go faster I purchased a 4 cassette tape of Stephen W. Hawking’s A Brief History of time. The theoretical physics of universes, black holes, singularities and millions of light years discussed on the tape contrasted strongly with the turning leaves and rural east Texas viewed from my windows. The one an abstract Picasso and the other typical Norman Rockwell. Mixed in with some country music it made the trip seem fast and I even had time to detour through Hot Springs to check on some quartz shops north of town. All, except Colemans were closed and there was nothing new of interest so I cut back to the interstate and arrived at the La Quinta in Little Rock at 4:30 PM about the same time several others were checking in. It was good to see the old and some new faces but one "regular" for sure would not be there except in spirit and greatly missed. Charles Milton, at age 94 had died in October.

The morning dawned much cooler with over-cast dreary skies. We gained access to the Big Rock Quarry on Granite Mountain (see article by Henry Barwood in Rocks and Minerals, July-August, 1989). It was extremely busy with three or four separate operations going on in different areas so we were extremely limited in the areas where we could collect. I got little of interest. Just a couple of small pieces containing small analcimes, albite and orthoclase cavities from one small area. At another area the rubble contained some pegmatite veins with some open cavities containing acicular light tan kupletskite crystals. Unfortunately when water gets on the kupletskite it mats into an unattractive mess. All I collected was in this condition and worthless. I did salvage one tiny cavity with bladed possibly altered eggletonite. By noon it was starting to mist and by the time we had



Arthur Smith, Jr.



downed some Big Macs, fries, and shakes it was coming down rather hard.

We visited the spot of the xenoliths in syenite near Bauxite in the rain (see Mineral News [1990], v. 6, n. 8, p. 5). Then as a shelter from the weather we visited the Bauxite Museum in the community center in what is left of the town.

Bauxite has been mined as an ore of aluminum in the area since just before the turn of the century. Activity peaked during World War II with Reynolds and Alcoa the leading producers and many small operators. The town of Bauxite was owned by Alcoa and its predecessors and had up to 8000 people living there in numerous houses plus a theater, school, shopping area and the community center where social activities were centered. Now most are gone except a rather modern appearing school, the community center and a very few houses. Most of the mining was done by open pits and a huge modern drag line stands idle adjacent to one pit. The few underground mines, both adits and shafts, were abandoned long ago. In the past few years mining has been sporadic and is now dormant. The museum gives a good idea of what life was like in the company town and how the mining for bauxite changed through time. Now it is cheaper to import the ore than to mine the ore that remains in Arkansas.

After about an hour we had dried off, warmed up and were ready to tackle the rain again. We stopped to get some typical pisolitic ore and some siderite that occurs in vugs in the ore. The siderite occurs in gray-greenish rounded crystals up to about 1 cm across. Unfortunately after they are exposed they get covered with brown iron oxides and are unattractive. Bill Prior got the prize, a large elongate vug, as I remember about 25 cm long, with little matrix, that was lined with just under 1 cm iridescent crystals. In a short time we were soaked and cold so we loaded the bauxite and crystals up and headed back to the hotel for dinner and a planned business meeting.

The next day was still gray though no rain; we headed southwest into the Ouachitas and Shangrila Resort. Rock shopping on the way to Crystal Springs. By noon we were eating lunch at the Shangrila Cafe and the skies were clear. We paid a visit to the County Pit at Mauldin Mountain for wavellite (Mineralogical Records, 1985, v. 16, n. 4). Surface scratching revealed little of interest but digging did produce some bright light green wavellite that showed numerous clear bright crystals that had excellent micromineral potential. The spheres of wavellite were small and radiating crystals were more prominent than the concentric layering that often is characteristic of this locality. The afternoon was well spent and my supply of microcrystals of wavellite was replenished. Most everyone seemed pleased with what they got.

During our stay in the Lake Ouachita-Mount Ida area we squeezed in



visits to several rock shops. Most had good supplies of all types of quartz although the best buys seemed to be in large groups of uncleaned recently mined quartz. You would need to have your own large acid vat etc. to take advantage of this. Prices were by the piece and the more pieces the better the prices seemed. Upper-end outstanding pieces were not common but then they never were. Large single top-grade clear crystals seemed also to be absent but I did not enquire. Most prices were about the same as last year.

Several shops had crystals of rhombohedral calcite from the St. Clare Lime quarry, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma priced at \$3 a pound. Much was damaged but some larger groups in the 10 to 15 pound size were quite nice. The crystals ranged from 1 cm to over 10 cm. Some of the smaller crystals were clear but most were translucent or opaque. I was walking by a glancing at the table of calcite whenzowee....something caught my eyes. There was a 12 by 13 cm flat matrix with a 6 by 6 cm twinned rhombohedron on top. It cost all of \$3 and made the day.

Ocus Stanley's little shed had a partial flat of quartz with chlorite phantoms in small groups from the locality near Jessieville. They had been well picked-over and I could not convince myself to buy one even at only \$6 a pound. There was a 2.5 by 4 cm point in with them that had some white inclusions near the base. For a buck, I threw it in with some school materials I was buying. When I got it home and looked under the microscope, the inclusions were all clay-filled and there were numerous tiny rhombohedral casts that may have been adularia but appear more like calcite rhombs.

Another item of interest that turned up on the trip were dark sphalerite crystals on pink dolomite from Black Rock, probably the Ben Hogan Quarry, Lawrence County, Arkansas. The smaller 1 cm crystals are rather sharp but the larger seem to be intergrowths of twinned crystals with rather indistinct shapes. Some had tiny oriented chalcopyrite sphenoids embedded in their surface. The largest crystal which is flat and 5 by 6 cm I call the "cow pie" because it looks like it was just plopped on the pink dolomite.

Most of us picked up choice tidbits at various shops including some large vugs with okenite from India, High Peak quartz partly coated with goethite and cryptomelane and masses of small gray often doubly terminated quartz crystals up to 1 cm long from the Christy Vanadium mine at Magnet Cove. The mine is now inactive and flooded.

That night we had our program consisting of four informal slide presentations featuring China, Texas Minerals and Arkansas Minerals in the Louisville Museum Collections. A few swaps and sales were also made.



Saturday we spent the day digging quartz crystals at the Fiddlers Ridge mine. Their shop is on the north side of Highway 170 east of Mount Ida before the Silver or Shangrila turnoffs. Their mine is in the Crystal Mountains south of the highway. We had a good time digging but at times there was more talk than digging. Most of us got our \$10. admission free in collected quartz but now it has to be cleaned.

Sunday the group started breaking up but most made a stop at Ocus Stanley's yard and then headed southwest to Dierks a former company town of the Dierks Lumber Company which was sold about 10 years ago. Southwest of town in an old sandpit/dump is an outcrop of Cretaceous age, Trinity Sandstone that has small nodules (1cm to 6 cm) cemented by barite. With some imagination you can see possible rose-like shapes similar to those of Norman, Oklahoma. Unfortunately none have as good a rock-like form as some from Oklahoma. After lunch from the back of the vehicles we checked out a shallow celestite deposit also in the Cretaceous a few miles further to the southwest. Here, shallow digging reveals lenses of orange, white, and pinkish barite 5 to 25 cm thick. The interior may contain intergrown bladed crystals. Not much, if any, could be considered specimen grade material. In most specimens the elongate blades are so intergrown there are few terminations and too many broken crystals.

Since we were already more than an hour closer to Houston, the ride back was not as long and with the remainder of the tapes to listen to and some music the trip seem easy. Another year and another good trip to Arkansas.



Misc. Page:

Save the Date

**Desautels Micromount
Symposium**

The Baltimore Mineral Society
is pleased to announce the

70th Annual

**Paul Desautels Memorial
Micromount Symposium**
October 2-4, 2026

At |
Natural History Society of Maryland
6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206

Micromounters Hall of Fame Induction
Mineral Talks, Silent and Voice Auctions
Sales, Giveaway Tables, Trading

Details to be Announced: Mseeds@fandm.edu

An interesting website (a bit of minerals, geology and philosophy):

<https://aaroncelestial.substack.com/>

Another interesting website:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/the-micromountclub>

THE MICRO PROBE

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