

# ROCK CHATTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA, INC.

<https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/home>

<https://m.facebook.com/LowerBucksPARocks/>

VOLUME 56

May 2022

NUMBER 5

## PROGRAM

May 13, 2022



### **An Unusual Industrial Mineral Deposit**

Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA President and Newsletter Editor, Eric Brosius, will give a presentation titled "An Unusual Industrial Mineral Deposit".

This deposit's formation, history, mining techniques and the mineral's application, which is located in the Southwestern United States, will be discussed in a short Power Point program. All are invited to attend.



**"The real wealth of the Nation lies in the resources of the earth - soil, water, forests, minerals, and wildlife."**

**- Rachel Carson (1907-1964)**

## KIDS KORNER

### & DISCUSSION GROUP

May 13, 2022

By Mel LeCompte

(7:30 PM in the Kitchen Area)

[rocksandbadges.dvess@gmail.com](mailto:rocksandbadges.dvess@gmail.com)



Due to the ongoing issues with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Kids Korner & Discussion Group is going to be temporarily put on hold. Once the pandemic is totally under control and everyone is back to full health, we hope to get back to our adventures in learning about the earth sciences. Until that time, please come out and enjoy the club's "Pick Table" and regular club meeting programs.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

### **Pick Table Schedule**

**May 13, 2022** - Group Pick Table: Anyone interested is invited to bring in a couple of flats of specimens for sale or give-a-ways.

## Message from the President

By Eric Brosius

Is it really the end? Our Government officials recently announced the Covid-19 pandemic is officially considered to be over. Although there are sporadic cases and concentrated hotspots they consider the overall pandemic to be at an end. With this announcement we should and hopefully be getting back to normal.



With the grass turning green, the trees sprouting leaves and the flowers blooming everywhere the wonderful world of mineral collecting is waiting for enthusiastic participants. As we venture out to find our earthly treasures, we all know a successful field collecting trip lies in preparation. I am not talking about preparing our specimens for display or preparing with a list of materials needed to collect those specimens, as both are very necessary, but the transportation and the route taken to get to that certain location is often overlooked.

A recent brake-down of a friend's car reminded me of the importance of vehicle maintenance. This is especially important if we are going to be traveling to remote places with limited facilities and cell phone service. Have your mechanic look over your vehicle specifically for an extended trip. Perform all routine maintenance like tires, belts, hoses, oil changes, etc. Additionally, carry extra water and snacks in the event of a brake down just like you would in the winter.

Furthermore, the nation's roads, bridges and infrastructure are in a sad state of affairs. A little time of route planning to get to your destination may remove some of the stress involved in the trip. We all have used roadmaps, but the internet is almost instantaneous in informing travelers of closed roads, accidents and other current traffic conditions. Use it wisely and always carry maps just in case there is no internet service for those GPS units.

As with anything, a little preparation can save a lot of headaches. As the warmer weather comes about, let us get out and enjoy the great outdoors and those favorite collecting spots. Once you have enjoyed a collecting trip write a brief description of what you found and the experiences you enjoyed. I'm sure your fellow members would love to read about your trip in the newsletter.

**Thats what I do:  
I COLLECT ROCKS**



## **Whoppers**

**By Eric Brosius**

The members and guests who attended the March meeting were treated to some "Whoppers" from some of our long time members.

Tom Pallanta told of how he and his father would attend several of the local flea markets and the treasures that they would find. On one of their outings, Tom came across some fossilized bones that were quite unusual as they were hollow inside. The seller of these bones didn't know what they had. Tom hit the jackpot and immediately made the purchase. He recognized the fossils were from a bird, specifically from one of the 14 species of Terror Birds. The other fossilized bone he came across at the Golden Nugget Flea Market. The seller of the bone thought it was just an ordinary bone from a buffalo. However, it turned out to be a cervical bone from some yet unidentified dinosaur.



Brian Schwab took the stage and proudly told of his favorite fluorites he recently obtained. The first was from the Redlands Quarry in Ontario, Canada that he had won in an on-line contest to guess the color of the fluorite specimen. The second is his pride and joy from the Diana Maria Mine in Frosterley Weardale, Durham County, England. This dark green magnificently crystallized fluorite fluoresces a bright blue under ultraviolet light. It also has micro galena crystals scattered across the fluorite cubes and some minor quartz. Additionally, it is one of the few specimens recently recovered from the "Naughty Nome Pocket" at the Diana Maria Mine.

**FLUORITE**  
**Redlands Quarry,**  
**Ontario, Canada**



**FLUORITE**  
**"Naughty Nome**  
**Pocket",**  
**Diana Maria Mine,**  
**Frosterley Weardale,**  
**England**

Dick Braun shared stories of several of his self collected magnificent treasures. He started with an amazing calcite crystal that he said came from the easiest collecting he ever did. On a trip to the Upper New Street Quarry, Patterson, NJ they arrived at the lower entrance after a recent

**ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA, INC.**

**Rock Chatter Vol. 56, No. 5, Page 4 of 8**

**(Continued from page 3)**

blast. His son was pulling debris away from the quarry wall, just inside the lower entrance, with a rake when he told his Dad that he broke a hole in the wall. Dick literally reached in the pocket and pulled the undamaged crystal from the hole in the wall! A family trip to Niagara Falls brought him through Herkimer, NY. A few collectors who Dick knew told him he would only need a screwdriver and small shovel to get Herkimer Diamonds from the frost heaved soil. Since that was all he had, a quick stop uncovered a spectacular specimen. Today, sledges, wedges and a lot of sweat and back breaking hammering is required in hopes of uncovering a small crystal. His other specimens included a fluorescent pyromorphite from the Brookdale Mine, Phoenixville, PA; a large beryl crystal from a side tributary to Crum Creek near Smedley Park, Media, PA and a fluorite with chabasite from New Mexico.



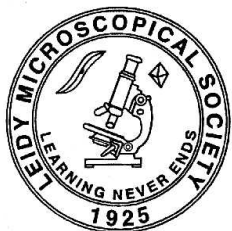
**From Left: Calcite XL, Upper New Street Quarry, Patterson, NJ;  
Quartz var. Herkimer Diamond, Herkimer, NY; All of Dick Braun's Whoppers**

Your author displayed his prized Greenland specimens of cryolite and siderite from the Ivigtut Cryolite Mine. The cryolite ore deposit is considered to be the only mineral to ever be mined to extinction. No other mineable deposit of cryolite has been found anywhere else on the earth. Without this mineral, which was used as a flux to reduce the melting temperature of bauxite ore, we would not have the vast amounts of aluminum that is used so much in our society. Today, cryolite is produced synthetically.



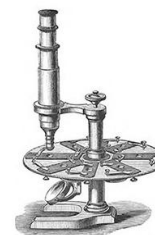
In other business of our organization, those present went through the club's library to separate the reference books that the club will retain from those that will be discarded. The discarded material will be available for sale or auction at a future meeting.





## Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

By Eric Brosius



The April 21, 2022 meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society gave all those present something to think about as Society member and President of the Philadelphia Society of Microscopy, Robert Carlton gave a presentation titled Philadelphia Microscopy Societies Past, Present and Future.



**The April 21, 2022 Leidy Microscopical Society meeting.**

**From Left: Don McAlarnen, KARENNE SNOW, Robert Carlton, Dave Rilling, John Ferrante, Christel Hoffmann. Not in the picture but present Bill Prince and Eric Brosius.**

**On-line via Zoom@ Bruce Geller and Mike Rosso**

Robert started his presentation with a brief history of Science Societies where learned academics in Greece, England and France gathered to discuss various subjects of a scientific nature. Some of the earliest microscopical organizations included the Microscopical Society of London, 1866; The Quekett Microscopical Club, 1865 also in London and the Postal Microscopical Society, 1873 who share microscope slides through the mail. This Society is also based in England. All these organizations are still active today.

In the United States there are few actual microscopical organizations. The oldest is the Leidy Microscopical Society, 1858-1929 to present; the New York Microscopical Society, 1877; the American Microscopical Society, 1878; and the Philadelphia Society for Microscopy.

All of these organizations in their early history tended to only include educated professionals who could afford the instruments needed to view microscopic objects. Today, the availability of high quality cheap optics and microscopes allows amateur microscopists to enjoy the microscopical world. Thus, many of the microscopical organizations are now composed of

**ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA, INC.**

**Rock Chatter Vol. 56, No. 5, Page 6 of 8**

**(Continued from page 5)**

members who are considered amateurs and the interaction of those professional microscopy organizations with the amateur organizations occurs on a limited basis.

The one thing the Covid Pandemic brought about in meetings of many different organizations is the development of on-line meetings. This has been pronounced in the different on-line microscopy groups. Facebook® has its Microscopy Group with over 36,000 members. There is also the Olympus Microscope Users Group, The Fluorescent Microscopy Group, The Crystal Art Photomicroscopy Group and others. Although all of these groups have a strong interaction on-line, mainly through microphotography, it is nearly impossible to discuss or observe specimens that are not able to be photographed using microphotography techniques.

So where does the future go with microscopical organizations? Locally, Robert believes there is a place where both the Leidy Microscopical Society and the Philadelphia Society of Microscopy can continue to meet and grow individually. However, both would benefit from meeting together on a limited basis to promote microscopy.

The discussion at the end of his talk resulted in a common concern of both organizations along with all of the existing microscopically societies worldwide. Our organizations need to be vigilant in the needs of the younger generation who seem to do everything on-line. It is getting harder and harder in our time starved world to travel to some common meeting place to get together in person for even one night a month to observe and discuss the items concerned with microscopy. Without that in person, hands on interaction the techniques, ideas and benefits of the microscope could be lost.

A very brief roundtable followed Robert's talk and the discussion. John Ferrante shared his microphotograph slides from the Carl Rilling collection.

In other Society business, the annual summer picnic is planned for July 9, 2022. Bruce Geller from Colorado and joining the meeting via Zoom® is handling the sale of specimens from one of the deceased members of his local Society. Anyone interested in the material should contact him directly. Finally, the May 19, 2022 meeting will be a Roundtable of microminerals from Mexico. All those attending are encouraged to bring in several micromount specimens to be shared for viewing along with their microscopes. All are welcome to attend.



**"I've spent more time than many will believe {making microscopic observations}, but I've done them with joy, and I've taken no notice those who have said why take so much trouble and what good is it?"**

**- Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723)**



## Calendar of Events

**Please check with the sponsoring club to make sure the event has not been cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic before attending any event.**

**May 14-15, 2022 - Canandaigua, NY - Quartz Fest sponsored by the Finger Lakes Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club.** Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua, NY. Saturday May 14, 2022 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Flgmfc/>

**May 19, 2022 – Fairless Hills, PA – Leidy Microscopical Society - Regular Club Meeting** at the Northminster Presbyterian Church **7:30 PM**. The subject of the meeting will be a Micromount Roundtable of Mexico Microminerals. All those attending are requested to bring in several micromounts of Mexican minerals for viewing. As usual, bring your microscope. Everyone is invited to attend even if you do not have a microscope.

**June 4, 2022 - Macungie, PA - 2022 Spring Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, Inc.** Located at Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. Saturday June 4, 2022 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. FREE ADMISSION - and plenty of free parking. FAMILY-ORIENTED - younger attendees encouraged. RAIN OR SHINE - over 50 vendors indoors, outdoor tailgate section weather permitting. Interested vendors contact: Pete Stoeckel at [minvamp@yahoo.com](mailto:minvamp@yahoo.com) to reserve tables. For additional information visit: <https://www.mineralfest.com/home.html>.

**June 4-5, 2022 - West Friendship, MD - Gem Miner's Spring Show.** Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD 21794. Saturday June 4, 2022 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday June 5, 2022 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For additional information visit: <https://www.gem-show.com/>

**June 11-12, 2022 - Cherry Hill, NJ - 2nd Annual \*SUMMER\* South Jersey Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show.** Located at: 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08054. Saturday (6/11/2022) 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Saturday Only)(Outdoor Only). \*RAIN DATE: Sunday (6/12/2022) 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Outdoor Only)\*. Website: [www.sjmineralshow.com](http://www.sjmineralshow.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow](http://www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow)

**June 11, 2022 - Kent, CT - Danbury Mineralogical Society Rock Swap.** Connecticut Antique Machinery Grounds, 31 Kent-Cornwall Road, Kent, CT 06757. Saturday June 11, 2022 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. More information visit: <http://www.ctamachinery.com/>

**June 18, 2022 - Newton, MA - Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction.** American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA 02458. For additional information: [http://www.bostonmineralclub.org/annual\\_auction](http://www.bostonmineralclub.org/annual_auction)

**August 12-14, 2022 - West Springfield, MA - East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.** Better Living Center, 105 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089. Friday August 12, 2022 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday August 13, 2022 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday August 14, 2022 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information: <https://www.mineralshowsllc.com/>

**THE ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA, INC.**

Rock Chatter Vol. 56, No. 5, Page 8 of 8

The next **Regular Meeting** of the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA, Inc. will begin at **7:30 PM** on **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA.

The location of the next **Executive Committee** meeting will be held on **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45 PM prior to the Regular Meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA

Regular meetings are held on the second Friday of the month except during July and August. Club dues for families and individuals are \$14.00 per year, payable in advance before January 1 of the membership year.

Permission is hereby granted to reproduce any of the articles in this Newsletter, so long as (1) the article is reproduced in its entirety, (2) the author of the article is credited, and (3) the source Rock Chatter is credited.



**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Eric Brosius</b>	<b>(215) 945-1039</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Brian Schwab</b>	<b>(215) 788-3993</b>
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Brian Schwab</b>	<b>(215) 788-3993</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<i>Position Open</i>	<i>(**) ***_****</i>
<b>ACTIVITIES CHAIR</b>	<i>Position Open</i>	<i>(**) ***_****</i>
<b>ULTRAVIOLATION CHAIR</b>	<b>Lee McIlvaine</b>	<b>(215)-713-8020</b>
<b>EARTH SCIENCE SHOW CHAIR</b>	<b>Brian Schwab</b>	<b>(215) 788-3993</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Christel Hoffmann</b>	<b>(215) 813-9885</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Dick Tillett</b>	<b>(267) 358-5929</b>
<b>ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN</b>	<b>Brian Schwab</b>	<b>(215) 788-3993</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Eric Brosius</b>	<b>(215) 945-1039</b>
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	<b>Mike Rosso</b>	<b>(267) 566-6594</b>
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>Eric Brosius</b>	<b>(215) 945-1039</b>
<b>PICK TABLE</b>	<i>Position Open</i>	<i>(**) ***_****</i>
<b>SUNSHINE</b>	<b>Marilyn Tori</b>	<b>(215) 794-0501</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>Eric Brosius</b>	<b>(215) 945-1039</b>
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	<b>Dick Tillett</b>	<b>(267) 358-5929</b>
<b>KIDS KORNER</b>	<b>Mil LeCompte</b>	<b>(609) 458-7763</b>
<b>WEBSITE MASTER</b>	<b>Mike Rosso</b>	<b>(267) 566-6594</b>



**The Bible is no lazy man's book! Much of its treasure, like the valuable minerals stored in the bowels of the earth, only yield themselves to the diligent seeker.**

– Arthur Walkington Pink (1886-1952)