



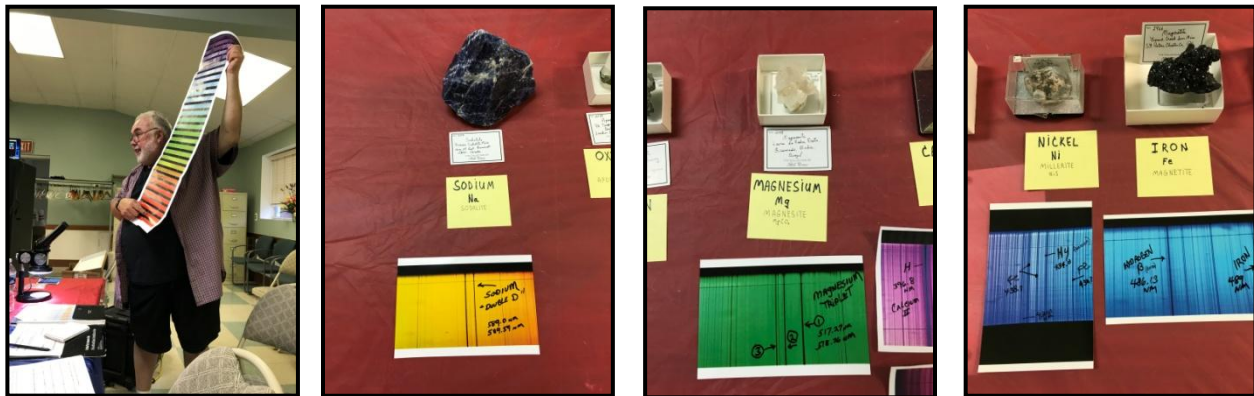
September 2022

Leidy Gets a Visit from Roy G. Biv

By Eric Brosius

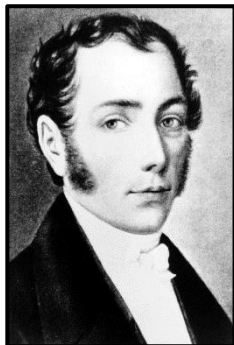


The June 16th, 2022 meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society was a challenge for the membership when Treasurer, Don McAlarnen proposed homework for our group at the May meeting, when he suggested we bring in micromounts representative of the solar spectrum. We all took to heart our Society's motto, "Learning Never Ends" and hit the books to find out what elements are found in the solar spectrum and the minerals those elements can produce here on earth.



Don McAlarnen explaining the solar spectrum and Fraunhofer lines. A partial grouping of samples of minerals that contain elements from the solar spectrum.

The solar spectrum is made up of electromagnetic radiation emitted by the sun in the form of energy over a wide range of wavelengths that is close to that of a black body with a temperature of about 5,800 Kelvin. The longer wavelengths have less energy and are representative of the infrared portion of the spectrum and the shorter wavelengths have more energy and are representative of the visible light and ultraviolet light portion of the spectrum. In 1814, Joseph von Fraunhofer studied and measured dark lines in the solar spectrum. Much later it was recognized that the lines coincide with the emission lines in the spectra of heated elements. This allows us to determine the composition of the sun. From the Fraunhofer lines the most prominent elements of the solar spectrum include hydrogen, helium, sodium, magnesium, calcium and iron. Less prominent but still abundant are oxygen, silicon, chromium and nickel.



Joseph von Fraunhofer
(1787 – 1826)

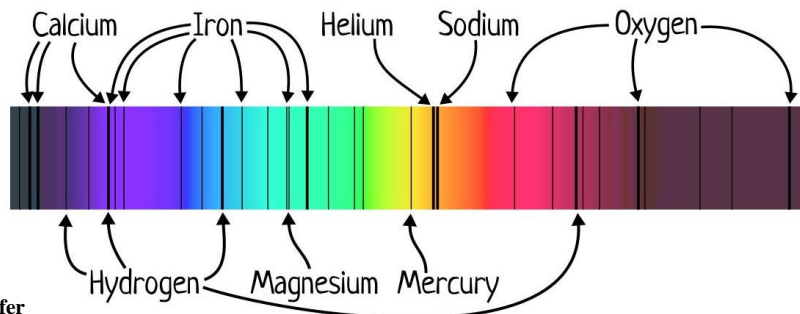


Image courtesy of:
<https://flatearth.ws/fraunhofer-lines>

Once the ground work had been laid, all those present shared their micromounts that contained those elements. Don McAlarnen had a group of pyrite geodes, apatite, natrolite datolite, olevenite, tourmaline, magnetite and hematite. Karenne Snow displayed some millerites and garnets. Dick Tillett had a variety of specimens from worldwide localities and your author shared several augites, diopsides, epidotes and enstatites from an assortment of locations.

In other Society business; all the microscopes from the display at the Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin, NJ have been cataloged and cleaned and are now back in storage, the hybrid meetings (in person and on-line) will continue and the summer picnic is scheduled for July 9, 2022 at the home of John and Karen Ferrante.

But, there is more! A Lazy Hazy Crazy Summer Picnic

The summer was hot, dry, humid and very long. But, micromounters were in abundance at the annual Leidy Microscopical Society picnic at the home of John and Karen Ferrante.



A collage of Leidy Microscopical Society members at the July 9, 2022 picnic. (From Left) Dr. Robert Carlton, Karenne Snow, Peter Fireman (just inside the next room), Christel Hoffmann, Dick Tillett, Dr. Wayne Geller, Dr. Paul Langer (sitting in front of the TV), Don McAlarnen, Mike Spevak, Sue Spevak and Karen Ferrante (sitting on the sofa), John Ferrante and Dr. Dave Rilling. Not in the collage Beverly Geller and your author.

The hot humid air of the outside gave way to air conditioned splendor in the Ferrante's great room of their magnificent home. Many of our members that we have not seen in quite some time returned to share micromounts and stories of what has been occupying their time through the Covid pandemic. Others who we enjoy so much were not present because of previous commitments of illness, including the dreaded Omicron variant of the Covid resurgence.

However, with a vast majority of the membership present enjoying the lazy day, the group held a much needed business meeting where so many present could help make decisions about the future of the Society.

To begin with, the Leidy Microscopical Society website (www.leidymicroscopical.com) is up and running thanks to John and especially Karen Ferrante. The website will have the Leidy Microscopical Society portion of the Rock Chatter newsletter of the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA available along with the calendar of events and other information. Hybrid meetings via Zoom® will continue. If the weather or some unforeseen circumstance arises forcing a cancellation of in person meetings a strictly Zoom® meeting can occur. Our membership is now spread across vast areas and as we all age travelling to meetings has hindered attendance at the meetings. A motion was made and approved to hold our meetings every other month starting with October 2022, December, February, April and June. The December and February meetings will be switched to Saturday mornings with the dates to be determined at the October meeting. Ad hoc meetings may occur between the now regularly scheduled meetings. A special microscope committee of Robert Carlton, John Ferrante and Don McAlarnen was set up to decide display locations and other areas of interest for the Leidy Microscopical Society historical microscope collection. Finally, the Society's By-Laws will require revision to reflect the changes being made with the meeting times.

The next Leidy Microscopical Society meeting will be held on October 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Fairless Hills, PA. The subject of the meeting will be a Micromount Roundtable on what you are currently working on.

Once the business of the Society was complete, we all enjoyed micromounts galore, an abundance of foods, stories and fellowship with all of our great friends. We thank John and Karen Ferrante for sharing their magnificent home with a crazy bunch of rowdy micromounters.