



October 2022

Leidy Takes a Breather

By Eric Brosius



There was no September Leidy Microscopical Society meeting as the current membership had voted, during our annual summer picnic, to revise our meeting schedule to every other month. We will revisit the meeting schedule after a year to see if it has met the Society's needs.

Our next scheduled meeting is on October 20, 2022, 7:30 PM at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Fairless Hills, PA. The program of the meeting will be a "Micromount Roundtable." Please bring your microscopes and what you are currently working on. I'm sure much discussion will take place, since we did not meet in September.

In our hiatus of meetings, I ask that you promote our niche of mineral collecting. Feel free to use the following to encourage a newcomer to our microworld.

Reasons to Micromount:

- 1) Space. Approximately 55 micromount specimens, defined by the AFMLS rules of a 1" W x 1.5" L x 1"H micromount box, fit in a space 8.5" x 11". Or, approximately 100 specimens, of the most used micromount box of 7/8" W x 7/8" L x 3/4"H, fit into the same 8.5" X 11" space.
- 2) Micromount Specimens cost significantly less than other size specimens.
- 3) Only a few hundred of the known 5849 official mineral species crystallize in larger specimen sizes.
- 4) Micro crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more than larger crystals.
- 5) Micromount material can often be readily collected at locations that rarely yield larger specimens.
- 6) Many rare mineral species are only found in microscopic sizes.
- 7) Micromount collectors are always willing to give extra specimens away or trade for material they don't have.
- 8) Micromounting is a way to continually work with your collection instead of just sitting in a cabinet to look at.
- 9) Micromount crystals often exhibit unusual forms.
- 10) Micromounting is a way to show your skill and ingenuity in mounting a quality specimen. You are more of a craftsman than just a collector.