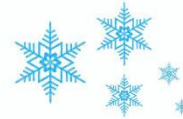




February 2024

Snow Bound By Eric Brosius



There was no regular meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society for January. The meeting was scheduled for Saturday January 20, 2024. However, the weathermen had the forecast correct for a change and a snow and ice storm blanketed the area on Friday the 19th during the day and into early Saturday morning. The executives of the Society agreed to cancel the meeting due to the weather and icy road conditions.

Our February meeting is planned for Saturday February 17, 2024, at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The subject of the meeting will be a Micromount Roundtable on what you are currently working on. All are invited even if you do not have a microscope.

However, all is not lost. Since we had no meeting in January, I will use this report to promote the 48th Annual Leidy Microscopical Society Micromount Symposium on March 8-9, 2024. Final preparations are being made and Symposium Chairman Don McAlarnen is taking reservations for tables. To promote the event, below is some information about our speakers and their programs:

Steve Stuart – “The Hugh McCulloch Story” (Friday) Steve has been a retired fire protection and risk management consultant since January 2016. He and his wife moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in April of 2017, from Detroit, Michigan. His childhood interest in chemistry, nature and minerals was rekindled in 1995 when he started to collect fluorescent minerals. In the late 1990s, he bought a stereo microscope, which opened up a whole new world for him. Steve posted his first photo to Mindat in 2004, and now has over 2,500 images on Mindat. He attends numerous micromineral symposia and conferences around the country. Steve is a member of the Canadian Micromineral Association, and has edited their newsletter, the MicroNews, since 2016. He is the first “Yank” to serve on the CMMA executive committee, so he was told. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Earth Science Association, The Baltimore Mineral Society, and the Leidy Microscopical Society.

Jose Santamaria – “Classic and New Southeastern Microminerals” (Saturday) Jose Santamaria served as executive director of Tellus Science Museum, formerly the Weinman Mineral Museum, from August 1996 until October 2023. He remains on staff as director emeritus to help with some of the museum’s major projects. Born in Cuba, Jose grew up in Atlanta, where he earned a Degree in Visual Arts at Georgia State University. His life-long interest in geology, minerals, and science in general led him to his position at Tellus. His projects include the expansion of the 9,000 square foot Weinman into the 120,000 square foot Tellus. His recent publications include a 2021 article on Baryte microcrystals in *Rocks & Minerals* and as coauthor on a 2022 paper on the brachiopod *Platymerella* in the *Journal of Paleontology*. He also edited *Minerals of Georgia* (2016). Jose currently serves as the vice-president of the Rome Mineral Society and co-chair of the Micromount Section of the Georgia Mineral Society. He and his wife Maia live in Rome, Georgia in a renovated 1929 craftsman bungalow with their dogs and cat.