



September 2024

Alpha & Omega By Eric Brosius



The June 19, 2024, meeting of the Leidy Microscopical Society will forever hold a special place in the membership's hearts. Things change, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. With great sadness but much enthusiasm the June meeting was the Society's last meeting at the Northminster Presbyterian Church. The population of the Society's membership has shifted away from the Levittown/Fairless Hills area. This required the Society to make a difficult decision to relocate our meeting place to Willow Grove, PA. This locality is more centrally located for most of the members. We cannot thank the Trustees of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, and especially Marilyn Tori and her husband the late Lee Tori, enough for allowing our Society to use the Church's facilities over all these past years. Thank you so very much.

Our next meeting will be on a new night at a new venue, **The Giant Food Store Community Center, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA.** Below is the new meeting schedule:

September 18, Wednesday – 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
October 16, Wednesday - 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
November 16, Saturday – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
December 14, Saturday - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
January 18, Saturday - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
February 15, Saturday - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
March 19, Wednesday - 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
April 16, Wednesday - 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
May 14, Wednesday - 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM
June 18, Wednesday - 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM

Since we must vacate the Giant at 8:30 PM sharp, we'll need to start our meeting at 6:30 PM (instead of our usual 7:30 PM). However, we would like to start an informal session at 6:00 PM, then officially start the meeting at 6:30 PM.

At the June meeting our subject was "Gadgets and Jigs Used in Micromounting". The members and guests shared the tricks of the trade that they have acquired over the years in making micromounts. Some of the items and techniques included: obtaining the specimen in the field using a variety of collecting secrets; braking down the specimen with chisels and hammers, nippers and pliers, rock trimmers and saws; cleaning the specimen using pressurized water streams, via hoses, pressure washers and textile guns, or using ultrasonic cleaners and some chemical solutions. It was then on to prepare the specimen for the final mount in the micromount box using box templates, labeling insert tools and a variety of tweezers, glues, markers, pedestal material and even temporary use of mineral tack. Everyone who attended had some specialty technique that was shared. An attempt was made to help preserve these techniques via a spur of the moment video recording.

In other Society business, final preparations were made for the September 7, 2024, 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon joint meeting/demonstration on Diatoms at the Delaware County Institute of Science

with the Philadelphia Society for Microscopy. Due to changes in our meeting time and location the Society's By-Laws will require updating. The Society was recently contacted by the heirs of George Butler to evaluate his mineral collection for an upcoming auction. Finally, the September meeting will feature micromounts from Ray Strohmeier. Members and guests are requested to bring in for viewing your six best/unusual Ray Strohmeier mounts from your collection.

However, that is not all. On July 13, 2024, our group met for our annual summer picnic at the spectacular home of John and Karen Ferrante. This year's picnic only involved friends, food and fun. There was no business discussion. As usual, all who attended had a fantastic time even though we missed several members who could not attend or had passed on over this last year. We thank John and Karen for hosting this most looked forward to annual event. Thank you.