

Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia

MINERAL MINUTES



Vol. 70, No. 4

Mineral Minutes

April 2011

Club Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 7:45 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the MSDC **will not take place at the Smithsonian**, as noted below. **We will meet at 7:45 PM at George Washington University Geological Sciences.**

Here is a copy of the e-mail that Andy Thompson sent on March 31st:

Here below is the information for MSDC's 6 April meeting which will take place at GWU. Read through to the end, if possible.

MSDC members will hold our meeting on 6 April not at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, but instead, at George Washington University Geological Sciences Program located in Bell Hall at 2029 G St. NW. We'll meet downstairs in B03. Aim to be there at 7:45 pm, our usual gathering time. There will be greeters at the main doors and lots of signs to get people to the right place.

I'm told there is on-street metered parking and a nearby parking building. So you may want to allow a few minutes extra to find suitable parking near Bell Hall. Although there seem to be over 20 parking lots in the area, I found 3 on the GWU website which specified that it allowed "visitor" parking, as distinct from most of the lots which were reserved for students and faculty. The former included:

Lot 7 Ambulatory Care Center Garage, 22nd & I Streets for Visitor, Faculty, Staff, Student

Marvin Center, H & 21st Streets for Visitor, Student

UPG University Garage at 2211 H Street for Visitor, Faculty, Staff, Student

The program will consist in a Report On Recent Research Findings at the Mount Rogers Site in SW Virginia. For several years, Dr. Tollo and his students have been exploring this intriguing ancient geological formation. Now, for the first time, MSDC members will be treated to an explanation of some of the major findings. The presentations will be led by the 2009 MSDC Foshag Award Recipient Allison Ruben and assisted by the 2010 recipient Laurie and Dr. Richard Tollo.

Again, we meet at the Geological Sciences Program of George Washington University, in Room B03, downstairs at 2029 G Street, NW; Bell Hall, Washington, DC 20052. In case of emergency, Dr. Tollo's office number is: 202-994-6960.

Susan and Ed Fisher have the following advice:

“We made a drive down to GW and found Bell Hall. The parking garage is a walkable distance away, but the Metro is a pretty long hike for some of our less mobile members (that certainly includes me and my cranky back) and a late evening walk there could be a little scary for the ladies of the group. Perhaps we could suggest carpooling for those who live near each other.”

Hope you can make the event, and if so, bring a friend if possible. :) Andy

Program and Speaker: – Program Announcement for 6 April 2011 – Report of Recent Research Findings at the Mount Rogers Site in SW Virginia. Speaker – Allison Rubin

Place: See Club Meeting notice on page 1. George Washington University Geological Program.

Dinner: Some of us will meet for dinner at the Pier 7 Restaurant at 6:00 PM before the club meeting. Give Andy Thompson a call at (301) 270-6790 so he can make reservations if you wish to attend.

Prez Sez – A Word from Our President Tom Tucker

It was good to hear that Betty Thompson was home and is recuperating from her recent surgery. We missed her at the last meeting - and hope that her recovery proceeds well, and speedily. Similarly, it is sad to learn that our editor, Mary Bateman, will be moving to New Jersey in the near future, to be closer to her Mom and family. Mary intends to remain our editor as long as we'll have her, thank you Mary. Mary devotes a remarkable amount of time to our Club interests and also to the Eastern Federation.

I was saddened to learn of the death of Al Penick, formerly a geologist and mineralogist with the Virginia Geological Survey. I only met Al a few times, but was always invited back to his office where he would talk about Virginia minerals as long as I would sit and share - which was usually quite a while. Many of the mineral specimens on display at the Division of Mineral Resources are from Al's collecting adventures.

We all want to remember that the meeting this month will be at the geology laboratories at George Washington University, and not at the Smithsonian. Please see the note from Andy about the special, time, place, and planned activity. Hope to see you there, Tom

MSDC Minutes, March 2, 2011 Denise Whitman, Secretary

President Tom Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Cathy Kirby Room at the National Museum of Natural History. He thanked past presidents Cynthia Payne, Ed Fisher, and Andy Thompson who were present for their contributions. The club welcomed visitors Robert Haas and a friend, Steve Smith from northern Virginia who was enticed by

our website, as well as Michelle Weekly (who became a member tonight!), and Jake Snagle, who is the program director of the Baltimore Mineralogical Society. Twenty-nine people were in attendance.

The February minutes were approved as published. Treasurer Rick Reiber announced the purchase of Quickbooks 2011 (an accounting software program), the state of the CDs, and that most people have renewed their memberships.

There was neither old nor new business.

Our "Geology in the News" had many entries. Sheryl Sims brought in several articles detailing the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, the push to mine rare earth elements in the national parks located in Wyoming, as well as potential mining operations in the Grand Canyon. Tom mentioned an article from the North Dakota Geological Society's "Geo News" about the increased oil resources available from the Bacchan Oil Shale Reserve due to fracking and better technology. Our bibliophile, Kathy Hrechka, brought in the recently published "Elements."

Several members brought back memories and minerals from the recent show in Tucson. Patrick spoke about two of the winning entries for "Best Rocks in the Show:" two huge specimens of rhodocrosite that had been found in China and were presented by Collector's Edge. Dave Nanney displayed a bright orange specimen of crocoite from Tasmania, one of many minerals purchased at Tucson. Tom reported that our young member Jessica Simonof, along with Lance Kearns, were presented with an award at the show for an article on galena that they published.

Andy alerted us that our April meeting will be held at George Washington University. Dr. Richard Tollo and two of his students (Allison Ruben and Laurie "Malachite" Ziminski-- both recipients of MSDC scholarships) will present their latest research on Mt. Rogers. In May, Dr. Richard Walker from the University of Maryland will report on gold from meteorite impacts. To complete the "Tres Riches Heures," Dr. Richard Wunderman from NMNH's Department of Mineral Sciences will illuminate our lives with an igneous topic. The field trip to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on February 19th was a great success. About 30 people from several rock and mineral clubs attended the open house at the Mineral Museum and the laboratories in the geology department.

Upcoming events include the Delaware Mineralogical Society's show at the Delaware Technology Community College on 3/05-06, and the Gem-Mineral-Fossil show at the Montgomery County fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 3/19-20.

Additional announcements were made: our editor, Mary Bateman, will be moving to New; she will still continue as editor of "Mineral Minutes. Karen Lewis, who lives in Arlington, is in need of a ride to the meetings. Andy has the membership cards: a list is sent to the

museum prior to each meeting- please verify with him that you are on the list. Betty Thompson is recuperating from surgery: we wish her a speedy recovery!

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

One of the two door prizes was won by Rick Reiber- he chose a specimen of hematite. Andy introduced our speaker for the evening, Tim Rose, who is the manager of the analytical laboratories in the Department of Mineral Sciences at the museum. His PowerPoint presentation was entitled "Visit to a salt dome: surprising finds in the Gulf of Arabia." He and museum scientist Jeff Post were invited by the United Arab Emirates to join a team of geologists to visit the island of Dalma. They were especially intrigued by large, well-formed crystals of hematite and fluorite- which were relics of the sediments which had been deposited in proximity to the layers of salt which eventually formed a salt dome. The island yielded other treasures: it had once been the pearl capital of the world, where divers would descend to great depths to pry pearl-bearing oysters off the rocky substate. Now, another natural resource is being tapped: wells rise off the ocean floor to deliver wealth in the form of petroleum to the citizens of the United Arab Emirates.

Many thanks to all those who provided refreshments!

OVER THE TEACUP

March 30 -- With help from her wonderful son Greg, Betty figured out that switching from the oncologist to a wound specialist would help her would heal more quickly. Last week, she visited him, and they planned a surgery to correct some things that weren't working well. The surgery was yesterday, and went well. They think they succeeded, which means that the prognosis for smooth healing is very good. She's now in good hands at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore. Healing will take another 2-3 months. -- Beth

March 29 --I've spoken to Cynthia several times by phone and her spirits seem to be o.k. as she recovers from her fall of last Thursday. On Monday she moved into a rehab facility whose address is below. She expects to be there for more than a week. She is in the Adventist Rehab Hospital, 9909 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD Main phone: 202/864-6046. She will try to get to a computer to communicate soon and then she would love to hear from you, I'm sure. ccpayne81@verizon.net – Andy

Let's keep both of these special ladies in our thoughts and prayers for their speedy recovery.

NOTE: If you have some news that you would like to share with the club, please let the editor know. Items of interest should be no more than a paragraph long and might consist of an ill member, an award you or a fellow club member or family member might have received, a graduation or birth in your immediate family, news of a former member, a special anniversary or birthday of yourself or a member, etc.

MINERAL MINUTES

Mary Bateman, Editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I will be out of town for several weeks and will be unable to do the May issue. Susan Fisher has graciously agreed to produce it and get it to you. Please send all information for the May issue by April 15 to Susan at novaya2@cox.net.

I will resume doing the newsletter for June, deadline will be May 15.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The following are upcoming events/shows within easy compute of the Washington area plus other events of interest:

Annual NJESA Show (April 30 – May 1) sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society in conjunction with the NJ Earth Sciences Assoc. and Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Franklin, NJ.

22nd Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show (May 21) hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society, Ruhl Armory, MD Route 45 at I-695, Towson, MD.

EFMS/AFMS Convention (July 6-10) Syracuse, NY

Wildacres (September 5-11)

47th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show (September 24-25) hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Howard County Fairgrounds, I-70 at MD Rt. 32, West Friendship, MD

Desautels Micromount Symposium (September 30-October 2) hosted by the Baltimore Mineral Society, MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD

WILDACRES

Steve Weinberger

Wildacres Workshop Committee Chair



The September 2011 workshops promise to be exciting!

Fall Dates: September 5th-11th

Speaker in Residence will be Dr. Steve Chamberlain

Classes are listed on the EFMLS Website (www.amfed.org/efmls) as well as a registration form under Wildacres for the September listing and registration forms.

[Note from the Editor: Deadlines are coming fast, so get your registration for September in as soon as possible.]

Material excerpted from the March 2011 *EFMLS News*

THIS WHITE SPACE NEEDS AN ARTICLE! CAN YOU HELP IT? It does not matter it is only a paragraph or a full page and you don't even need to be an expert at writing or spelling – that's what we are here to help you with. HELP THIS WHITE SPACE GAIN SOME CHARACTER BY SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE. It will thank you and so will your fellow MSDC members.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

President: Tom Tucker	threedogtom@earthlink.net	Director: Cynthia Payne
Vice President: Andy Thompson	thompson01@starpower.net	Director: Dave Nanney
Program Chair: Andy Thompson	thompson01@starpower.net	Director: Don Greaves
Secretary: Denise Whitman		
Treasurer: Rick Reiber, c/o MSDC, P.O. Box 9957, Alexandria, VA 22304	rickhike14@yahoo.com	
Web page: www.mineralsocietyofDC.org		

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:45 p.m., in the Kirby room, the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. (No meetings are held during July and August.) NOTE: The April meeting will be at GWU – see page 1.

The purpose of this Society is to promote interest in mineralogy, geology, and related earth sciences and to encourage mineral collecting. An annual scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the related field.

Dues – Due by 10 January. \$20 for a single membership, \$25 for families.

The *Mineral Minutes* is the bulletin of The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, Inc.

The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia is one of the founding Societies of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!

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Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia

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HAPPY SPRING

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

First Class Mail