

# Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia

## *MINERAL MINUTES*



**Vol. 69, No. 7**

**Mineral Minutes**

**September 2010**

### **Club Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 7:45 PM**

The regular monthly meeting of the MSDC will take place as noted above. We meet at 7:45 PM in the lobby of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum.

**Program and Speaker:** “Recent Advances in Understanding the Geology of the Piedmont Province (nearby VA/DC/MD).” This scintillating presentation will be given by Scott Southworth of the United States Geological Survey.

**Place:** The National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Ave, Washington, D.C. We will gather at the Constitution Avenue entrance at 7:45 PM to meet our guard who will escort us to the Cathy Kirby room. If you park on the street, **THERE ARE NOW PARKING FEES, PAYABLE AT THE KIOSKS, AND ENFORCEMENT UNTIL 10 PM.**

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

### **The Prez Says - A Word From the President**

**- Andy Thompson**

*“It is what you **bring** to meetings  
That augurs what you will **take** away.”*

With this thought in mind, here are some ideas to help all of us prepare ourselves for our upcoming MSDC club meeting which is just days away.

September 1, the date of our MSDC initial fall club meeting with Scott Southworth, is just around the corner. So please do not be caught off guard by a tardy turning of your calendar page at the end of August. Here’s a fine

way to remember our meeting date. On Tuesday 31 August, or on any day in the final week of August, go to our club’s newly updated website ([WWW.MineralogicalSocietyofDC.org](http://WWW.MineralogicalSocietyofDC.org)) and click on “calendar.” Scroll down to 1 September where you will read the following:

“Recent advances in understanding the geology of the Piedmont Province (nearby VA/DC/MD).” – This scintillating presentation will be given by Scott Southworth of the United States Geological Survey. If you google his name on the web, you will find some articles he has authored related to this subject. Scott and Dr. Richard Tollo, who has spoken to us previously, have collaborated on the study of the Piedmont and it’s complex evolution. What questions about this area will you be bringing to this meeting?

While you are looking at our updated MSDC website, let your imagination scroll through the pages. Is there something not there which would enhance our site? Some MSDC members have made excellent suggestions, such as including significant historical contributions which MSDC has made to establishing the Eastern Federation, in printing the mineral postage stamps and other advances MSDC’s more illustrious members have made.

If you have some web suggestions, send them directly to our website manager, [bdthompson01@yahoo.com](mailto:bdthompson01@yahoo.com). This will be your most efficient approach and, if we don’t have to entertain random and repetitive suggestions made during our monthly meetings, it will help our meetings stay focused.

And, for a final practical suggestion, when you enter our Cathy Kerby meeting room, scan the back table or counter space where you will find a display of several door prizes and perhaps a mineral specimen for auction. For the time being, we will not be circulating the items during the meeting. This will avoid log jams and assure every attendee has an equal opportunity to view the minerals.

We eagerly look forward to seeing you on 1 September. Consider if you have any friends or acquaintances who may find our meeting's topic of special interest. Feel free to post notices of our programs. Our gatherings always have a place for new and old friends.

### **MSDC Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2010**

#### **- Betty Thompson, Secretary**

President Andy Thompson welcomed several familiar guests as well as people new to the group, including Logan (who collects "anything that clicks"), Alexia (who is renewing a childhood interest), Joe (a long-time member and founder of northern Virginia clubs), and our much-missed Peter Chin (who is back from Hawaii to work in the DC area for a few years). Andy asked that anyone who wants to receive emails about club events should let him know and he will add them to the list.

Treasurer Rick Reiber reported that our finances are solvent and have been no significant changes since our last financial report. Vice president and program chair Tom Tucker invited everyone to send him ideas for future programs. September's will be excellent: Scott Southworth, a USGS geologist highly recommended by Dr. Richard Tollo and others, will speak about local geology below Great Falls based on his recent publications about Piedmont geology. Andy mentioned that Mary Bateman and possibly Tom plan to go on the MSDC Yellowstone field trip with Dr. Tollo in July. The MSDC board will meet this summer and input from everyone is welcome.

Andy gave Susan Fisher the club's thanks for yet another generous gift of her time and talents as longstanding temporary Mineral Minutes editor and often substitute-secretary in the absence of Georgia Olmstead and Betty Thompson. Susan and Ed Fisher are the official MSDC Rockhounds of 2009, which we have not yet celebrated because the Thompsons haven't completed the club's token of appreciation. With the September issue, Mary Bateman will become editor and bring her considerable talents and experience to this task; please send your articles to her anytime.

For Geology in the News, Jeff Guerber noted the out-of-control undersea oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. David Nanney introduced us to Ivan Amato's *It's Crystal Clear that Volcanic Ash is Like Cotton Candy: How and Why* (see May 11 item for the Washington Post at <http://ivanamato.blogspot.com/>). Andy noted that, at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, the two largest bluest diamonds in the world are now on display next to each other. Kathy Hrechka encouraged everyone to come

to the Eastern Federation picnic and swap at Lake Anna on Sunday, June 13, where everyone gets a free mineral specimen. Kathy also noted the huge sinkhole in Guatemala City, 600 feet deep, after Tropical Storm Agatha. Leslie Nanny pointed out the *Mineral Record* article on the theory of mineral evolution showcasing research by Robert M. Hazen from DC's Carnegie Institution, related to the MSDC program earlier this year featuring Dominic Papineau, who worked on Hazen's team.

Cynthia Payne and George Loud very generously donated materials for use as door prizes and auction items. Cynthia donated lovely specimens of tourmaline, smithsonite, and apophyllite with stilbite. George donated and praised the book *The Seashell on Top of the Mountain* about the father of geology, which had been previously reviewed in *Mineral Minutes* by Andy Thompson. Andy had also brought schorl and epidote specimens from the club's resources. Ed won the book, Kathy the apophyllite with stilbite, and Betty the schorl. Lively bidding gave the smithsonite to Kathy, the tourmaline to Cheryl Simms, the epidote to Logan, and \$22 to the club. Many thanks for the superb donated materials!

Erich Grundel and Tom Tucker reprised and expanded Erich's Rochester presentation and gave a highly enjoyable and enlightening program on "Microminerals from the Roadcuts of the Scenic Loop of Jeff Davis County, Texas." Afterwards, everyone enjoyed continued conversation while appreciating Erich's specimens, Don Greaves' fossils, and refreshments by Susan Fisher and Betty Thompson.

### **MSDC Board Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2010**

#### **- Minutes by Betty Thompson, Secretary**

Attending: Board members Don Greaves, David Nanney, Cynthia Payne, Rick Reiber, Andy Thompson, Tom Tucker, Betty Thompson (via phone); and members Leslie Nanney and Susan and Ed Fisher.

#### **1. MSDC Strengths**

Board members saw MSDC's strongest features as solid monthly programs, connection with the Smithsonian, and friendly welcoming meetings. Downtown location was noted as a possible way of attracting new members who work or live in DC.

#### **2. Financial Report – Treasurer Rick Reiber**

Rick Reiber reported that as of the 15 June statement, the checking account held a positive balance. The Board decided to put some of the funds from the checking

account into a CD or CDs with the same bank, with the time-frame and allocation being researched and decided by the MSDC treasurer and president, not to exceed a 2-year length. The Board also decided to increase the 2010 scholarship from \$500 to \$700, given the high cost of academic books and board members formally expressed the desire to continue to give an annual donation to the Smithsonian Mineral Sciences department, as long as finances permit. It was noted that MSDC's coffers are full thanks to the generosity of the Hronik and Dhyse families, but given that MSDC has no continuing source of income other than dues; our current assets will diminish over time. Andy reported on MSDC's inventory of minerals and materials and the Board made decisions to modify the method of handling door prizes and auctions. The door-prize winner will henceforth choose from the three minerals offered; and the auction item will be of higher value. In discussion of scholarship options, the Board found value in a different way to promote mineral education, to explore making mineral kits to distribute free to junior and senior high school educators; Rick Reiber and Dave Nanney will explore this idea.

### **3. Report on our Monthly Programs - V.P. & Program Chair Tom Tucker**

Tom welcomes everyone's suggestions for speakers and topics. Our September speaker will be Scott Southworth of the USGS. Options for other programs include: Frank Hisson (on his South African collecting trip), Tim Rose, SI ("behind the scenes" lab tour; separately on his research in Hawaii), Mike Wise, SI (various topics), Cathe Brown, SI (some aspect of crystallography), Don Greaves (geology and fossils of the local DC area), an S.I. expert on the staff on the meteorite which landed locally and is currently "in court," Dick Fisk, SI (on Hawaii), Leslie Hale (manager of the SI NMNH Rock and Ore Collections), Rick Wunderman, SI (volcanology or other topics), Richard Tollo of GWU & his student who received the 2009 MSDC scholarship and continues to work with Dr. Tollo this coming academic year (research at Mount Rogers in SW Virginia, one of the oldest volcanic sites in the country, possibly leading to an MSDC field trip there).

### **4. Mineral Minutes Newsletter**

The Board thanked Susan Fisher for the admirable job she has done for MSDC, stepping in behind Georgia Olmstead for well over a year, and welcomed Mary Bateman as new editor. Mary brings a great deal of editorial expertise.

### **5. Need for Field Trips, Swap Meets, Increased Membership, Further Membership Surveys**

Board members expressed the strong desire that we increase our membership base and that having field trips and perhaps, in 2011, a swap meet, are important ways of doing so. Getting and keeping the website updated, all agreed, is a *sine qua non*.

Ed Fisher will work on membership ideas (including the swap meet/ tail gate idea), with a membership table there for interested individuals. Andy and Betty will meet with Casper Voogt to learn how to update our website. Dave Nanney will phone new members to learn more about member interests and how MSDC can serve them. Rick Reiber will ask the Northern Virginia club trip chair if MSDC can be invited to join in some of their field. trips. Tom Tucker noted that MSDC members will be included in the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area annual trip in February 2011 to James Madison University, as happened in 2010. Members also recalled the "low impact field trip" several years ago to George Loud's basement gallery, wondering if it's possible to do anything similar again.

### **6. Review and Discussion of MSDC Survey results – Andy Thompson**

25% of members responded. Many suggestions will be implemented as soon as practicable, e.g., having nametags, distributing Mineral Minutes via email/website to members who so choose, and advertising our meeting topics more widely including within the Smithsonian Institution and local libraries and sending them as early as possible to other local clubs for publicity in their newsletters. One survey respondent discussed possibly changing the time of the monthly meeting, but board members saw no clear advantage at this point.

With no further business items to be discussed, members motioned to adjourn the meeting. Many thanks to the Fishers for graciously hosting the meeting and providing delicious refreshments!

### **Summary of the MSDC July Program -**

#### **Microminerals from the Roadcuts of the Scenic Loop of Jeff Davis County, Texas -**

A Presentation by Erich Grundel and Tom Tucker

Erich Grundel and Tom Tucker have both explored the 74-mile Scenic Loop of highways in Jeff Davis County, Texas, and taken some fine and fascinating detours. The Loop is 14 miles longer than the beltway – but with no traffic! The area is southeast of El Paso and, on the west, touches the Rio Grande. Erich's and Tom's very enjoyable and data-rich presentation gave lots of insight about why we may want to follow in their footsteps.

Texas boasts some of the finest private mineral collections anywhere, as well as the superb offerings at the Houston Museum of Natural History. Tom first forayed into Jeff Davis County 25 years ago after collecting in Arizona and New Mexico. The locale is rich in mercury. Around

Chalingua, TX, he found good hunting at an abandoned mine that was open for collecting back then. On the way, he passed the MacDonald Observatory and got a private tour.

Later, on a 2007 trip to the New Mexico Mineral Symposium, he stopped at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University in Kansas. It's a curious little museum, with artifacts from ancient China and Japan, life-size dinosaurs roaring, and splendid ancient marine fossils of Kansa-like a fossil of a 14-foot fish with a 6-foot fish inside it (eaten shortly before the bigger fish died).

Texas is mostly sedimentary, but Jeff Davis County also has igneous deposits. On the Loop, Tom collected igneous material from a roadcut near MacDonald Observatory. Some specimens were difficult to identify, like a lustrous black crystal and a mass of densely matted black fibers. Tom took them on the 2008 annual field trip of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area to visit Dr. Lance Kearns of James Madison University and the JMU Mineral Museum, and Dr. Kearns used the scanning electron microscope to identify them, including jamesonite.

Tom went back in 2008 and got to the Observatory again. It's the largest optical telescope in the lower 48 States and one of the largest in the world. Because, 25 years before, he had had such good luck in the roadcuts on the way to the Observatory along the Scenic Loop, Tom did the whole Loop and found unexpected things. He took them to the 2009 Micromineralogists Symposium, where his minerals were suggested as topics for research!

This part of Texas is a hidden treasure. There are magnificently preserved areas marked by Tertiary volcanism due to the subduction of the Farallon plate beneath the west coast of North America. Much of the area is in private hands, but there are some National Parks and National Conservancy areas.

Art Smith, who lived in West Texas and worked in the oil industry, died in November 2009, in his late 80s. Art wrote *Minerals of Texas: A Progress Report*, as yet unpublished. It offers insight about fertile unexplored ground for new minerals.

At roadcuts, look for very small cavities filled with chalcedony. On the roadcuts, notice where there are veins and splotches of a different rock. You may find a marvelous mess of colors and forms. When you find something completely unfamiliar, it may be a cast after another mineral. Look on both sides of the road, because often you find different things on each side. Tom found beautiful prismatic crystals of rhyolite; chalcedony

pseudomorphs, some with fluorescence; bedrock; feldspar crystals full of zircons; and cryptolemene. Tom's gorgeous photos were contributed by many people, including Erich, Tom, Lance Kearns, George Loud, and George Reimherr

Erich noted that the Scenic Loop offers superb highway signs and gigantic shoulders. In hilly country there are a lot of roadcuts. He's never had police stop his explorations of roadcuts, although the Border Patrol may be active. In roadcuts he has found flow tufts, igneous rhyolitic rocks, explosive caldera formations that collapsed, and much more. The formations may be vertical. The roadcuts offer easy collecting; it's often only 6-8 feet to haul the rocks back to the car, and Erich often sets up his microscope on the back of the car so he can determine what he's found. He has encountered lizards but not a single snake.

Erich shared his method: Load up the biggest pieces you can in one big box. Examine them with a microscope onsite and choose the good ones to take home. Hammer to find what's in it. Take minerals to Lance Kearns to identify. Erich pointed out that the scanning electron microscope can tell us what a specimen is now, but it may have started as something else. For instance, Erich showed a specimen of chalcedony or maybe hyalite opal that had a hole with another mineral in the bottom center. That mineral was there first, toxic to the later chalcedony.

Erich, too, showed stunning photos, which he had taken himself. For example, one specimen showed little clusters of petal-like yellow minerals; another was full of tiny spheres.

Tom volunteered that Erich might be willing to lead a group field trip to the Scenic Loop – a tantalizing prospect! The riches they shared with us promise much delighted exploration. What good fortune that our club includes members with such expertise and contagious curiosity, and with such talent in sharing their finds with us!

### One of My Favorite Things – Mineral Oddities

— Susan Fisher

We have all had one of those field trips where the weather is brutal, the altitude is a few thousand feet too high, the terrain is challenging, the rock is harder than your third grade spelling test, your back is aching, and the blisters on your hands have just declared convention status. You are following that stringer by sheer force of will while your significant other is starting to look up good clinics for treating compulsive disorders on his/her iphone. To top it

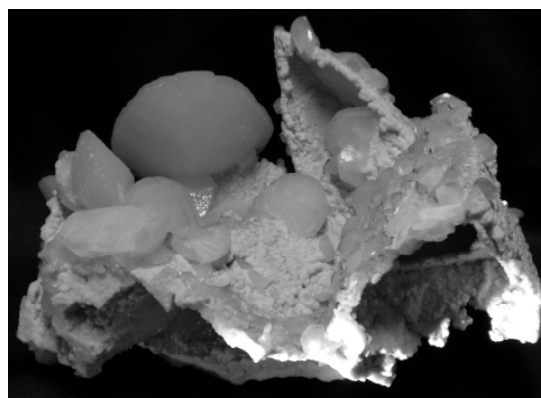
all, your so-called collecting buddies keep coming over to ask for more of your packing material since you aren't using it. Just when all hope is lost, that stringer widens and small pockets start to show up. There it is, a pocket that appears to be at least six inches high and goes back into the rock. On trembling knees, you kneel, peer in and scream at all the dirty tricks Mother Nature ever pulled on you. The hole is just that - an empty hole. At one time that hole may have been lined with lovely crystals, but subsequent fluid flows have dissolved away what was once there and left you considering knocking off a few of your "collecting buddies" and using their grinning bodies to fill that useless cavity in the rock.

Wait, this article was supposed to be about my favorite things and not a confession of attempted (or, at least, contemplated) homicide. Sometimes Mother Nature is in a whimsical mood and the re-dissolving of minerals can lead to some amazing pieces. I'm not talking about the more common process by which new minerals are formed when a new influx of fluid takes a bit of element A from what was there and adds it to elements B, C, D, etc. and produces a new mineral in the pocket. (I'm also fascinated by this process, but that discussion is for another day.) Let's dig out our virtual time lapse snap shots of a pocket and watch something wondrous happen. While no one actually knows what has happened in a particular deposit, I think the following is one possible scenario.

Imagine a pocket in a lead-zinc deposit in an area that will eventually be called Bulgaria. At first there is a lot of very hot, mineral rich fluid that is depositing lead and zinc. Then, as time goes by, the fluid dissolves some of the surrounding rock and mixes with ground water, the acidity of the fluid decreases and the temperature and pressure fall, and some calcite crystals start to form in a pocket high in the deposit. The pocket is roomy so there is enough fluid for scalenohedral calcite crystals to reach over 4 inches.

These crystals are stable and sit in the pocket for a time. Then something happens far below the deposit and a second influx of warm fluid forces its way into the pocket. The large calcite crystals start to dissolve on the side facing the flow of fluid, but because there is so much calcium carbonate in the confined space of the pocket, new smaller calcite crystals form on the protected back side of the old large crystals. After a time the fluid stops forcing its way in and the calcite crystals reach a second stable state with most of the old crystals dissolved leaving only a thin shell on one side. That shell is coated by the secondary growth of small calcite crystals. Then, amazingly, a third influx of cooler fluid again upsets the chemical balance in the pocket. This new calcium carbonate rich fluid causes the precipitation of lovely fan-shaped, cream colored calcites in and on the hollow casts

of the first crystals. The fluid drains away, time passes and eventually a miner breaks into the pocket and lovingly removes a delicate cluster of calcite casts with the subsequent crystallization. Mother Nature has created a thought provoking thing of beauty that more than compensates for all the frustration and blisters of breaking into a few empty pockets.



Calcite after Calcite  
Droujba Laki, Rhodope Mountains, Ploudiv, Bulgaria

### **What Makes Minerals So Central To People's Lives?**

— Andy Thompson

Anthropologists of an earlier generation discovered a common belief held by ancient tribal peoples throughout the world. Independently, each of the tribes believed that their particular village was the center of the world. Specifically, they also believed the largest and most central tree in their village was the source of the tribe's power and somehow akin to the exact center of the world. Variations of this theme are evident in the opening pages of Genesis, with its story of the Tree of Knowledge, as well as in this spring's blockbuster film, "Avatar" with its "Tree of Souls."

Perhaps members of various hobbies hold a similar belief, namely that whatever they collect is somehow central to the past and future of humanity. Coins, stamps, jewelry, beer cans, whatever the desired type of objects, each genre of collectables holds a strong attraction. Many mineralogists, as well, are quick to recognize that minerals and the mining industry has been and continues to be at the core of human progress.

Support for this later belief comes from the mining industry, of course, but also from local government agencies, such as the Nevada State Commission on Mineral Resources and its wonderfully educational website: [http://minerals.state.nv.us/formspubs\\_educ.htm](http://minerals.state.nv.us/formspubs_educ.htm).

Here is a sample item found there which supports this notion:

“Mining is the bedrock of civilization. Without mining there could be no modern agriculture...no production of energy...no factories or offices...no schools or hospitals...no transportation systems or communications networks...no weaponry or national defense. All of mankind's material needs must be dug from the earth, grown in the soil or taken from the sea. We must all remember that our horn of plenty begins with a hole in the ground.”

The website continues: “As populations increase and civilization becomes more complex and technologically advanced, the demand for minerals increases. It is now necessary to produce over 40,000 pounds of minerals each year for every man, woman and child living in this country.”

So is this above statement simply hype from true believers or is it reality? That this is no exaggeration is evident from an item found elsewhere on the Nevada website.\* It lists the identity and amount of minerals found in the average automobile:

#### **Fabricated Materials Required**

2,245 lbs. iron & steel  
26 lbs. copper  
24 lbs. lead  
18 lbs. zinc  
512 lbs. rubber & plastics  
85 lbs. glass  
140 lbs. aluminum  
100 lbs. upholstery, etc.  
3,150 lbs. Total

#### **Amount of Raw Materials Need For the Above Fabricated Materials**

4,960 lbs. iron ore  
2,600 lbs. copper ore  
960 lbs. lead ore  
720 lbs. zinc ore  
980 lbs. crude oil  
170 lbs. silica sand  
560 lbs. bauxite  
250 lbs. misc. materials  
11,200 lbs. Total

\*([http://minerals.state.nv.us/forms/educ/DidYouKnowAuto\\_LH.pdf](http://minerals.state.nv.us/forms/educ/DidYouKnowAuto_LH.pdf))

Beyond cars, imagine the mineral resources needed for our housing, infrastructure and food production. So when mineralogists speak about mining and minerals as being central to human life today, listen up. They are not exaggerating, beating their own drum or going out on a limb. To the contrary, they know what they are talking about and that is part of why many people find mineral collectors to be so interesting.

#### **October Program**

The October 6th Program will be Bruce Gaber. Bruce is well known to those who attend Wildacres. In the past few years he has taught photography and pewter making. He also acts as the auctioneer for Wildacres and was the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies auctioneer. He is an interesting speaker with a lot of knowledge to exchange. More information will be forthcoming in the October *Mineral Minutes* about Bruce and the topic he has chosen. In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendar for the October 6 meeting.

#### **Upcoming Events: Start planning those fall trips now!**

**September 4 – 5: Augusta, ME** -- 21st Annual Rockhoulder's Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Kennebec Rock & Minerals Club. National Guard Armory.

**September 18-19: Harrisburg, PA** --: Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine.

**September 18-19: Rhinebeck, NY** -- 41st Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show and Sale sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Dutchess Co. Fairgrounds.

**September 25-26: West Friendship, MD.** -- 46th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds.

**October 1 – 3: Elkridge, MD** -- Annual Desautels Micromount Symposium hosted by the Baltimore Mineral Society. MHA Conference Center,. Registration and information: [cscrystals2@verizon.net](mailto:cscrystals2@verizon.net).

**October 1 – 3: Dallas, NC** -- 33rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Faceters Show sponsored by the Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Gaston County Park

**October 16-17: Johnstown, NY** -- 12th Annual Mineral Show & Sale sponsored by the Fulton Co. Mineral Club. Johnstown Moose Lodge, Rt. 30A; Johnstown, NY.

**October 23-24: Warwick, RI** -- Rhode Island Mineral Hunters Annual Show sponsored by Rhode Island Mineral Hunters. CCRI Knight Campus.

**October 23-24: Henrietta, NY** -- 41st Annual Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section and Rochester Lapidary Society. Monroe Co. Fair & Expo Center .

**November 6 - 7: Exton, PA** -- Gemarama 2010 sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. CFS, The School at Church Farm.

### **Mineral Minutes: Call for Articles and Pictures -- Next Deadline**

Did you notice all the blank space on this page? Articles/pictures, drawings/cartoons, poetry, etc. are needed to fill in blank spaces. This is your newsletter and you are encouraged to participate in filling all the blank pages.

What did you do over the summer? Did you take an interesting field trip? Why not write it up and share it with your fellow club members? You say you can't write. It need not be perfect, the editor can help you by formatting it and checking for spelling and grammar errors.

The **deadline for the October issue of the *Mineral Minutes*** will be **September 10**. If you have an article or pictures that you wish to share, please e-mail them to Mary Bateman at [mbateman1@verizon.net](mailto:mbateman1@verizon.net) or mail them to her at 2700 9th Street South, #203, Arlington, VA 22204-2328

When e-mailing articles, please send them either in the body of the e-mail, as a word (.doc) attachment or as .pdf attachment.

### **A Request from the Smithsonian and Michael Wise**

Greetings from Michael Wise, Geologist and Education Officer for the Department of Mineral Sciences (DMS). As a longtime research scientist in DMS and someone who has been intimately involved in our geology exhibition for over a decade, I have personally witnessed the public's "quest for knowledge" as they visit our world-class geology exhibition. Visitors are often in awe of our many

exquisite specimens on display, but are equally thrilled by a personalized experience that can only come through direct interaction with scientists like me or by qualified educators. On behalf of my colleagues in DMS and the Office of Education and Outreach at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, I invite you to become a part of our Museum's community and help make our visitor's experience one they won't forget.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to work with the public in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals (GG&M) at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. GG&M volunteers explore the exhibition with our visitors and stimulate their curiosity about the beauty and wonder of the rocks, minerals, and meteorites in the Museum's collection. The requirements and benefits of the position are described in [a flyer Mary Bateman or Andy Thompson can e-mail to you].....

My colleagues and I are ready to train those who are interested in helping us get our message about Earth's materials and processes to the general public. New volunteers take part in a nine-week orientation and training program at the Museum that includes lectures and workshops with Museum educators and research scientists. The required training dates are as follows:

Saturday, September 11  
 Wednesday, September 15  
 Wednesday, September 22  
 Wednesday, September 29  
 Wednesday, October 6  
 Saturday, October 16  
 Wednesday, October 20  
 Wednesday, October 27  
 Wednesday, November 3

Saturday sessions are scheduled from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm; Wednesday sessions are from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Training will take place in a classroom and in the exhibition. Free parking is available for each session.

Questions regarding the position and training schedule should be directed to Bridget McGee-Sullivan at [mcgee-sullivanb@si.edu](mailto:mcgee-sullivanb@si.edu) or (202) 633-0076. Thank you for helping us spread the word about this exciting volunteer opportunity at the Museum.

Michael Wise  
 Department of Mineral Sciences, MRC-119  
 Smithsonian Institution

**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

President: Andy Thompson	thompson01@starpower.net	Director: Dave Nanney
Vice President: Tom Tucker		Director: Cynthia Payne
Secretary: Betty Thompson	(301) 270-6790	Director: Don Greaves
Treasurer: Rick Reiber,	2121 Marlboro Dr., Alexandria VA 22304	– (703) 578-4224
Web page:	<b>www.mineralsocietyofDC.org</b>	

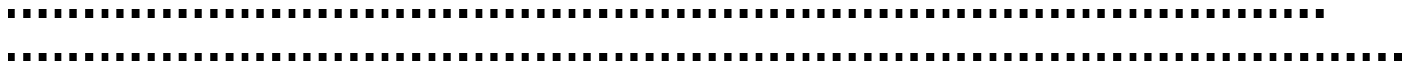
Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:45 p.m., in the Kirby room, the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. (No meeting in July and August.) sciences and to encourage mineral collecting. An annual scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the related field.

The purpose of this Society is to promote interest in mineralogy, geology, and related earth Dues – Due by 1 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!**



***MINERAL MINUTES***

**Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia**

Mary Bateman, Editor  
2700 Ninth Street South, #203  
Arlington, Virginia 22204-2328



**Time Sensitive Dated Material**  
First Class Mail

