

The Mineral Minutes

February 5, 2020 Program: “Hogg Mine” by Bill Stephens

by Yury Kalish, MSDC Programs VP

William (“Bill”) Stephens, the Regional Vice-President of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) for Region 4, will be our speaker in February. Bill will discuss the history and the minerals of the Hogg Mine.

The Hogg Mine is located in Georgia, about 50 miles southwest of Atlanta. It is one of the disappearing kind of mines that are privately owned and open to mineral collectors during regularly scheduled fee-based digs. It is known for beryl (aquamarine), star rose quartz, and black tourmaline. Bill has visited the Hogg Mine on multiple occasions and therefore has extensive first-hand knowledge of that mine.

Bill is a licensed Professional Geologist in several states. He has owned and operated an environmental consulting company for a quarter of a century and helped government agencies and private companies and landowners with their surveying, engineering and land planning. Bill has been a mineral collector since childhood and, like many of our members, has a basement full of minerals from his collecting trips. Bill has always been, and continues to be, active in various mineralogy clubs. Most recently he was the VP for Program at the Delaware Mineralogical Society. He is currently the Eastern Federation’s Region 4 Regional VP.



Please join us in taking Bill to dinner on February 5th at 6:00 pm at the Elephant and Castle at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you cannot make it to dinner, please go directly to the lobby of the Natural History museum (Constitution Avenue entrance) at 7:30 pm. We will head upstairs to the Cathy Kerby Room at 7:45 pm for Bill’s presentation.

Sharing Time

by Dave Hennessey, MSDC President

Well why don’t we echo the Tucson Show theme and all bring “World Class Minerals” for sharing. If, like me, you don’t happen to have any “World Class Minerals”, bring whatever you would like to share with the group. Whatever pleases or interests you is going to please and interest the rest of us as well

MSDC’s January 2020 Business Meeting Report

by Andy Thompson, MSDC Secretary

Dave Hennessey began the evening’s proceedings by warmly welcoming visitors Fred and Pat who came down from the Baltimore area. In response to Dave’s invitation, they shared a bit about their particular interests in minerals and each brought mineral specimens with stories and puzzles to be shared later in the program.

(cont. on p. 2)



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Prez Says...

by Dave Hennessey, MSDC President

It is the best of times. It is the worst of times. The great annual Tucson mineralogical experience is about to happen and I will not be there.

The main show sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society is February 13-16, but satellite shows in more than 50 Tucson venues are already underway. Everything

(cont. on p. 2)

(Business Mtg. Cont.)

(Prez Says cont.)

Elections of club officers for 2020 were then held and the attendees voted to reward last year's officers by renewing their offers to serve as follows for the current year: President, Dave Hennessey; V.P. for Programs, Yury Kalish; Treasurer, John Weidner; Secretary, Andy Thompson. Two of last year's three Directors continued, Dan Teich and Ken Reynolds, while Leslie Nanney was nominated to begin a new, three-year term. Dave thanked Amanda Parker for her service given her term had expired.

MSDC Treasurer John Weidner then provided an update on membership numbers and noted the club's fiscal situation was stable. This is the time of the year when members renew their year-long membership. Dues can be given to John at a monthly meeting by way of a check made out to "Mineralogical Society of DC" or can be mailed to John at 7099 Game Lord Dr., Springfield, VA 22153-1312.

Eastern Federation's Wildacres program for May 18-24 was then discussed including MSDC members' reports of their very positive experiences attending earlier sessions. Well-known and popular Bob Jones will be the presenter. The cost for the week-long event is \$420 which includes room and board. Some workshops may include minor fees for materials. For more information, visit: <https://efmls.org/wildacres>.

MSDC Members then shared information on field trips and auctions to be held in the coming weeks.

Having concluded all the business at hand, Dave called for and received a motion and second to close the business meeting. He then turned the program over to Yury to introduce the evening's presenter.

mineralogically new and wonderful from around the world seems to find its way to Tucson each year. I'm happy to report that several in our membership ranks are going to be able to attend and hopefully they will share their experiences with us at a future meeting.

The theme of the Tucson show this year is "World Class Minerals" which might alternately be titled "Minerals That I Cannot Afford". Luckily, our Smithsonian sponsors will be there and many "best of kind" mineral specimens will be offered to them for acquisition during their visit. The wonderful things they acquire will come back to Washington to join the Smithsonian displays, so even though none of us could likely ever afford these wonders, we will get to see them just the same. We are very lucky to have an ever-expanding wonderful collection of "World Class Minerals" right here in Washington.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful 2020 so far and look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on February 5th.

MSDC's 2020 Donation to the Department of Mineral Sciences

by Andy Thompson, MSDC Secretary

Each year, MSDC gives a donation to the Smithsonian's Department of Mineral Sciences to support any project or purchase the Department has deemed appropriate. Tim Rose, Manager of the Department's Analytical Labs and MSDC's sponsor, is here seen accepting a check to be used in 2020.



January Program Presented by Thomas N. Hale "Virginia Mineral Project"

by Andy Thompson, MSDC Secretary

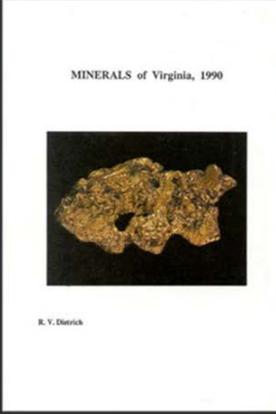


MSDC Vice President for Programs, Yury Kalish, introduced the evening's program presenter, Thomas Hale, a mineral collector with a passion "for preserving history one mineral at a time." A relatively recent graduate of Virginia Tech, Thomas' diverse interests and system-wide approach to minerals is hinted in his Political Science major with a focus on South Asia Regional Security, Urban Planning and Mineral Resources. Thomas has collaborated with mineral collectors and museums and designed the Virginia Mineral Project (VMP) which is under the non-profit umbrella of the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

The VMP envisions gathering a large data-bank of information about Virginia minerals, collecting sites, collectors, the history of VA mines, and publishing this with a view to supporting the hobby and bringing a new generation into the mineral collecting experience. Thomas shared a number of his PowerPoint slides, seen below, which explain the VMP in his own words.

WHAT IS THE VMP?

- The VMP is a state-wide initiative to “*collect, preserve, and educate*” the public on Virginia minerals and geology.
- Through a recent partnership with the Science Museum of Western Virginia, the Virginia Mineral Project is officially an institutionalized research project and has 501c3 status under the umbrella of the museum.
- The VMP seeks to publish a new book on Classic Virginia Mineral Localities, bringing a new generation into the hobby while supporting clubs, universities and museums that have an invested interest in geoscience education and outreach.
- The VMP will fill the gap that has been left since the last publications of Virginia Minerals and Minerals of Virginia and will be the primary organization for preservation and education on Virginia minerals, connecting all parties under a united vision.
- Most importantly, providing collaborative opportunities and supporting youth engagement!



MINERALS of Virginia, 1990

R.V. Dierckx



SCIENCE MUSEUM
of WESTERN VIRGINIA

Thomas explained the Project’s goals and objectives for the year as follows:

WHAT WILL THE VMP DO IN 2020?

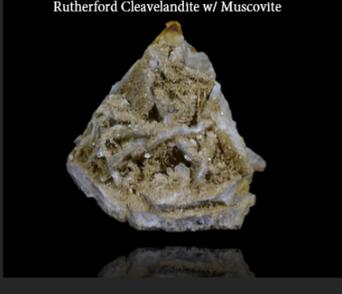
Primary Task: Over the course of 2020, the VMP will travel across the state to collect the primary source material for the book through interviews, meetings, photography sessions and public engagement events AND develop at least four community events through collaboration with the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

Goal: Collect 80-90% of book information for the project and have a layout by end of 2020 for editing and publication phases for 2021-2022. This grant is for the research component of the project.

Secondary Tasks: Outside the primary publication research collection, the VMP will be involved in the following while out collecting data for the book:

- Social Media Engagement (One Post a Day)
- Virginia Rockhounding Community Forum
- Museum & Club Display Projects
- Collection Management and Photography
- Community Events & Mineral Shows
- **More secret projects in the works!**

Rutherford Cleavelandite w/ Muscovite



After the majority of data has been collected by year’s end, Thomas expects the key task of the Project will then be able to come to fruition in the eventual publication of the tentatively titled compendium, “Classic Mineral Localities of Virginia.” The last such resources were published decades earlier. Because a number of sites have closed, today’s collectors need updated information on the approximately sixty sites that have been found throughout the state. The draft outline of the intended publication is illustrated below.

CLASSIC MINERAL LOCALITIES OF VIRGINIA

(DRAFT LAYOUT)

Purpose: Serves as the first new publication on Virginia's most classic mineral localities to preserve the history of some of the state's greatest discoveries and mining history. Will be used as a collector's guide as well as academic and museum use in mind.

Key Differences from older publications:

- Connects the cultural and human aspects while keeping the mineral data.
- *A book for the community, made by the community!*
- Colored photographs!

Book Layout:

- I. Introduction
- II. Geology & Mineralogy of Virginia
- III. Collecting Minerals (The How-To of Collecting)
- IV. Classic Mineral Localities (50-60 Locations)
- V. Getting Involved
- VI. Index



Thomas shared that the VMP was funded by a small grant during 2019 and that he now seeks matching funds for a second grant which will carry the work through 2020 as outlined below.

FUNDING THE VMP

As of January 1st, 2019, an anonymous foundation has given the project \$15,000 under a challenge gift to help kickstart the project while incentivizing mineral clubs, organizations, and outside individuals to support the project!!

Fundraising Goal: By June 30th 2020, the VMP will strive to obtain **\$30,000** for the research and development phases of the publication and research project. This will fund travel, gas, equipment, community programs, and preservation projects for the year of 2020.

Anyone interested in supporting can also mail checks to the Science Museum:
 Science Museum of Western Virginia
 1 Market Square SE, Roanoke, VA 24011
 Make sure the check goes out to the "Virginia Mineral Project."

We are working on developing an online option for donations through the museum website and an official support page. This will be releasing in the next week or so.

Tonight's presentation to MSDC echoes earlier talks that he has given to other clubs, and expects to continue sharing with clubs throughout the greater multi-state area. He welcomes all mineral collectors to visit the following social media sites to learn more about the VMP and to volunteer to help in whatever way possible. It was noted that one well-known retiring mineral collector donated to the VMP all of his printed articles and personal notes about the VA mineral sites he visited during his lifetime. By collating such information from many individuals, clubs, museums and libraries, Thomas expects to "preserve, collect and educate" the public on all things related to mineral collecting. He provided the following additional ways for becoming involved.

GETTING INVOLVED

- If you have stories, documents, or information you would like to share with the VMP, then you can email us at: virginiamineralproject@gmail.com
- If you would also like to be a part of the VMP team or become a supporter of our effort, then please feel free to write us a short email regarding your interest in the project
- Follow us on Facebook at: [The Virginia Mineral Project](#)
- Join the official Virginia Rockhounding Community Page on Facebook! 800+ members and growing! [Virginia Rockhounding](#)
- **Accessibility! Everyone can contribute and be a part of this project. No matter if it is one photo or an entire collection update, you can be a part of Virginia mineral preservation!!**

In conclusion, Thomas noted he intends to take advantage of and incorporate recent advances in high definition photography. This will support the interests which both seasoned and novice collectors have in the aesthetic and structural aspects of mineral crystals. From the big-picture perspective, the VMP hopes to share a vision of mineral collecting which includes minerals' historical and cultural dimensions. This multi-disciplinary approach aims to appeal to a wide range of interests.

Thomas concluded by pleading for his listeners to pay special attention to supporting the interests of teenagers. "These years are the most important for engaging the next generation in mineral collecting. Once beyond these and the college years, the pressures of jobs and employment" tend to move interest in mineral collecting to the back burner.

MSDC President Dave Hennessey thanked Thomas for explaining the Virginia Mineral Project. He asked if there were any questions from attendees and Thomas fielded several about his views of how to hook younger collectors, including millennials. He suggested field trips were the best way of encouraging interest in minerals. "There's nothing like bringing minerals home," he suggested. He also said people really found high definition photography to be an important attractor, as well as engaging them through social media and conversations. In response to another question about the VMP tapping into existing data-banks such as the USGS, he noted he had in fact been in touch with USGS and said they referred him to the Virginia State geologist resources. Dave again thanked Thomas for his thorough presentation and the attendees showed their appreciation with grateful applause.

January 2020 Geology In The News

by Andy Thompson, MSDC Secretary

Dave Hennessey invited members to share any geology-related information that recently may have caught their eye. Dave Nanney provided information about a rare siting of frozen mirabilite, a sodium sulfate crystal which has made a rare appearance at the great Salt Lake.

Scientists are particularly excited about it because, they speculate, it could possibly also be found on the surface of Mars. For more information visit:

<https://www.deseret.com/utah/2020/1/7/21055472/great-salt-lake-rare-environmental-mounds-could-teach-us-about-mars>

Photo to the right: Great Salt Lake State Park ranger Allison Thompson speaks to members of the media about the mounds formed by the mineral mirabilite on the shores of the lake on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020. Ivy Ceballo, Deseret News.



January 2020 Sharing Time: Show and Tell

by Andy Thompson, MSDC Secretary

As a regular part of the MSDC monthly meetings, President Dave Hennessey invited any attendees who brought minerals for show-and-tell to describe their specimens, regardless of whether they were collected from Virginia or from elsewhere. At least 5 persons shared their minerals and stories with Dave showing several small iridescent hematite specimens, not shown here, which he collected in VA.

Dan displayed a large prehnite which was originally collected in 1960 from the Lower Street Quarry in Paterson NJ.



Alex brought in a tray of diverse specimens, most from Virginia but also a few from Iceland (calcite), and Norway (photo to the left).

Fred, visiting from Baltimore, brought an extensive quantity of sizable mysterious brown rocks (shown below) to see if club members could shed some light on their identity. Although mineral identification by visual examination alone is difficult, MSDC's club sponsor, Tim Rose, a geologist with the Smithsonian, provided a helpful explanation of how the specimens could have morphed during their formation process. Fred and friends found the specimens after a construction crew in Baltimore unearthed large boulders and smashed them into smaller pieces shown here. Some of the honey-combed rocks contained tiny quartz needles, iridescent goethite and colorful chalcedony.

Fred also displayed two small specimens (below), with the one on the left displaying a thin layer of white hyalite opal.



Pat brought a mysterious small green specimen (photo to the left) from Iceland but no one offered a confident identification of the mineral. One person suggested it was very probably of volcanic origin given its light weight.

The largest specimen of all on display was brought by the evening's presenter, Thomas Hale, who hauled the massive beryl. Wayne Gilmour and Thomas Leary collected it in September of 2019 from Vulcan's Dale Quarry, located about 15 miles south of Richmond. The photo with the quarter (for size) and blue cloth background is how the specimen appeared at the quarry and before cleaning.



The photo to the left, with the bubble wrap, was taken at the January MSDC meeting shows the specimen from a different angle, seemingly with smaller cylindrical beryl spears protruding from the main crystal.

MSDC Club Information

Meetings are the First Wednesday of the Month (Jan-Jun and Sep-Dec). We meet in the Constitution Avenue lobby of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History at 7:30 pm.

Website <http://mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org/>

Facebook www.facebook.com/Mineralogical-SocietyOfTheDistrictOfColumbia

2020 Officers and Directors

President - Dave Hennessey | davidhennessey@comcast.net

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Treasurer - John Weidner
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THE MINERAL MINUTES



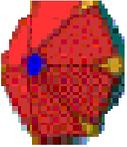
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NEWSLETTER OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mineralogical Society of DC
Time Sensitive Dated Material
First-Class Mail

Useful Mineral Links

Announcements from Local Clubs

	<p>American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)</p>	<p>www.amfed.org</p>
	<p>Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS)</p>	<p>www.amfed.org/efmls</p>
 <p>mindat.org</p>	<p>MINDAT</p>	<p>www.mindat.org</p>
	<p>Mineralogical Society of America (MSA)</p>	<p>www.minoscam.org</p>
	<p>Friends of Mineralogy</p>	<p>www.friendsofmineralogy.org/</p>
	<p>WebMineral</p>	<p>webmineral.com</p>
	<p>The Geological Society of America (GSA)</p>	<p>www.geosociety.org/</p>
	<p>Jeff Scovil Mineral Photography (not advertising - just great photos)</p>	<p>scovilphotography.com/</p>
	<p>United States Geological Survey (USGS)</p>	<p>www.usgs.gov</p>
	<p>The Geological Society of Washington (GSW)</p>	<p>http://www.gswweb.org/</p>

The Gem Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County:

56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time:

March 21-22, 2020 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5

Location:

Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6

16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

Featuring:

Hourly Door Prizes

Gold Panning

Fluorescent Minerals

Raffle Prizes

Free Parking

20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry

40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits

Learn to make a gemstone in the shop

Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children

Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, Physics

More info at: www.glmsmc.com



AFMS Code of Ethics



- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, and buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock. [Editor's Note/Observation: I would also include wildlife as well as livestock.]
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and the se in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (MSDC)**

(___) Family – \$25.00 per year. One address.

(___) Individual – \$20.00 per year.

(___) New * (___) Renewal Dues are for Year _____*

For new members who join in the last months of the year, membership will extend through the following year with no additional dues.

ANNUAL DUES – PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY.

Pay at next meeting or mail to:

Mineralogical Society of DC
c/o John Weidner
7099 Game Lord Drive
Springfield, VA 22153-1312

Name(s) (First and Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): Home/Work/Mobile _____

Email(s): _____

OK TO INCLUDE YOU ON CLUB MEMBERSHIP LIST?

() Yes – Include name, address, phone, email.

If you want any information omitted from the membership list, please note:

Omit my: () Email; () Home phone; () Work phone; () Mobile phone; () Address; () Name

SPECIAL CLUB-RELATED INTERESTS? _____

Meeting Dates, Time, and Location: The first Wednesday of each month. (No meeting in July and August.) The National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 10th Street and Constitution Ave, Washington D.C. We will gather at the Constitution Avenue entrance at 7:30 PM to meet our guard who will escort us to the Cathy Kerby Room.