



Our March presenter is Dr. Michael Wise, a geologist at the Mineral Sciences Department of the National Museum of Natural History. Mike is a long time member and friend of the club. He made presentations at the club meetings before, including most recently on amethysts in 2017. This time, Mike will discuss a topic close to his research interests at the Smithsonian – pegmatite. He co-authored scientific articles on a wide range of investigations and discoveries related to pegmatite, from columbite-group minerals in granitic pegmatites of Maine, to occurrence and composition of gahnite in pegmatite-aplite dikes of California.

Most of us know that pegmatites are igneous rocks that form during the final stage of magma's crystallization. During the presentation, we will learn about crystal chemistry and crystal structures of pegmatite minerals, petrology and geochemistry of pegmatites, and evolution of granite-pegmatite systems. Mike will explain what makes pegmatites so fascinating, describe important pegmatite districts, and review examples of some specific pegmatites and minerals found in them.



Please join us in taking Mike to dinner on March 6th 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 meeting room at 7:45 pm.