

# Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia

## *MINERAL MINUTES*



*Vol. 70, No. 9*

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*November 2011*

**Special Edition of the Mineral Minutes:** This will be a combined edition of the Mineral Minutes containing information from June, September, and October.

**Club Meeting:** **Wednesday, Nov 2, 2011 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:**

**November 2, 2011, Program Title:** "Meteorites at the Smithsonian - Collection, Classification, Curation and Investigation"

**Presenter:** Dr. Cari Corrigan, Mineral Sciences Department.

Dr. Corrigan will provide a broad overview of the Department's meteorite collection and also give particular attention to the Lorton VA meteorite which arrived on the evening of 18 January 2010. The Smithsonian acquired the specimens and intends to display a portion of the meteorite and make some available for research purposes. Come learn about the astronomical mysteries which this and other meteorites can tell us.

**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 for dinner before the club meeting. **Give call Susan Fisher, 703-830-9733 so she can make reservations if you wish to attend.**

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

#### **Where is Tom ??**

Greetings from the Ozarks of Missouri, a temporary waystop toward my ultimate destination in Virginia. I'll be home in a few days, after a long adventure about the country. Andy tells me that some were inquiring as to "Where's Tom?" I'm on my way, and have had a great adventure, much of it mineral related. I know in my absence VP Andy has been leading us well, just as he has in much of the past. Thanks you Andy, and also Mary and Susan with the Mineral Minutes, Rick with "the books", and Denise with the monthly Minutes. I know you all have helped to carry us onward.

At the meeting next week we have several items of business to consider, approve, or otherwise act upon. I have appointed a nominating committee: Sheryl Simms, Dave Hennessey, and Dave Nanney. They are seeking candidates for the five positions to be elected at the December meeting. Theirs is an onerous task, for I know how difficult it can be to convince qualified folk to actively serve in these positions. Please - if you would be willing to serve in one of the "officer" or "board" positions, please volunteer to one of the committee members. The positions to be filled include: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; and a single Board member. If you would be willing to serve in any of these positions, please contact one of the committee folk - before next Wednesday! The present officers are noted on the last page of the newsletter.

We also need to find a willing member to take over the position of Mineral Minutes Editor. Mary Bateman has served us well for several years, but having moved to New Jersey, she finds it difficult to continue to be actively and currently involved in getting the Minutes put together and disseminated. Susan Fisher has filled in admirably over the years when Mary has been unavailable, but I know she too would like to see a new permanent editor take over and establish new high goals for the newsletter. If you are interested, please contact me or one of the other old or new officers.

We need to approve the annual donations made to the Minerals Department at the Smithsonian - which I have suggested should be increased significantly, and also the scholarship donation that we make to a student of Dr. Tollo's at George Washington University. Please consider the appropriateness of these contributions that we make each year, consider alternatives, and be prepared to discuss and approve them in some form.

Andy has reminded me that our next (December) meeting is our annual potluck Christmas and Holiday gathering, and we all are expected to bring an appropriate "dish" - entree, salad, dessert, beverages, etc. So please drop us (Andy and Betty) an email (bdthompson01 at yahoo.com) or give Betty a call (301-275-8285) and tell us if you are coming and what appetizer, main or side dish, dessert or drink you will be bringing. If we don't hear from you, someone will be calling you ! Remember, for December only, we begin our evening activities earlier, and will meet in the Smithsonian Lobby at 6:45 PM, Wednesday, December 7. We typically have around 30 attendees, including many of our speakers from the past year, and some of our friends from the Smithsonian staff.

We are also looking for an "entertainment committee" for that evening. Last year several folks arranged a variety of activities, so please consider leading something "special". Contact Betty for volunteering or information.

In February, we have again been invited by Dr. Lance Kearns to visit the mineralogy labs and Museum at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. That will be Saturday, February 18, and we will be joined by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, and the Micromounters of the National Capitol area. Put it on your calendar so you won't miss this great field trip opportunity.

I think that's all the major business items that will require our immediate attention. So let me get back to your original question, Where's Tom ? Well I have been collecting "Herkimers" near Strasburg, VA; collecting geodes near Hamilton, Illinois; collecting misc. micro minerals from a phonolite igneous intrusion at Bridal Veil

Falls, near Spearfish, South Dakota; collecting geodes near Dead Indian Hill, Park County, Wyoming; finding "leopard rock", near Clay Butte, Wyoming; visiting Norris Geyser Basin in Yellowstone; attending the Denver Mineral Show; collecting zeolites on Bozeman Pass, Montana; collecting granite gneiss for a door stoop; attending the Montana Crystal Collectors in Butte, Montana; collecting from the Bald Mountain skarn, on the Boulder Batholith, Montana; stopping by the Pohndorf amethyst pegmatite, Jefferson County, Montana; looking for zeolites or whatever along the creek beneath Index Peak, Wyoming; collecting from Granite Mountain quarries Nos. 1, 2, and 3, near Little Rock, Arkansas; collecting from the Jones Mill Quarry, Arkansas; visiting Granby, Missouri - which they say is the "oldest mining town in the Southwest"; and I'm still a thousand miles from home in Virginia, so who knows what else I might discover. I do expect to be home in three or four days though, so any new adventures will be limited.

Hope to see all of you at the November meeting next Wednesday. I know several of you have asked about the meteorite that fell near Springfield, so this will be your chance to get all the answers from the expert who actually worked with that unusual rock. If you are going to join us for our pre-meeting dinner gathering at Pier 7, please call or email Susan, so she can make the correct reservation.

The post script below is included only to give you something to think about during one of your journeys through local traffic. This traffic jam is on the main road, about a half mile from my little cabin. Earlier he had been in my front yard. See you next Wednesday, Tom



### Mineral Minutes comments get results !

(Editor's note: Tom prepared this *Prez Says* for the September *Mineral Minutes*, but you can enjoy it now.)

In the last issue of the Minutes I was lamenting the volatility or ephemeral nature of internet web-sites. We can use them daily, they are a fantastic resource, and then "poof" they can be gone forever, I guess because the sponsor has ceased to support and maintain the site, and of course the mere "being" on the web has to have a cost

somewhere. ( Don' ask me - I don't know where it is or how it works, but I'm thankful that it does.) I was happy to still be able to reference my 1837 Dana because it was a real book, and I had it right there in my hands - forever, perhaps, while the references on websites appeared less permanent.

Well, our long time member Jack Busch saw my comments and passed them on to his son Richard, who sent me this reply which I copy directly:

"If you send your web browser to <http://www.archive.org>, you will see the logo for The Wayback Machine near the top center of the page. Merely type in the URL of your desired website (<http://bocamina.com>, for example). click the "Take Me Back" button, and you will be presented with a calendar that shows the dates upon which snapshots of your desired website were taken. Click on one of the circled dates and the website will be presented to you. Hope this helps."

So there is a website which "saves" webpages, and has them available for us. I tried this for the Bocamina website, and all the pages were immediately available - all those hundreds of exceptional photographs of minerals ( I like the pyromorphite) and some of the mines that they come from. I then tried it on the Strahlen.org website, but got no results. I don't know why, but I was so happy to see Bocamina, it didn't matter. Thank you Jack, thank you Richard !!

I write this as I sit in my hovel of a cabin in the mountains just outside of Yellowstone Park, in Montana. It was so good to get back here after several years away. So many rocks! So many books! So many mice ! I've been working on the mice and the results of their industry, and I've played with plenty of rocks. Within hours of arriving here I was able to go to the stream out front and among the cobbles in the stream bed, find rocks with little zeolite treasures - so pretty under the microscope. Joy comes to some of us in many small packages.

I've also found a nice chunk of petrified wood - hard to do here because most of it has already been found. It was at the base of the recently eroded stream bank, where several large trees had fallen over. A fresh outcrop. By the way, the Eocene age petrified wood here is not pretty and does not take an attractive polish. It's just a curiosity, and it looks best if left in it's natural weathered state. If it's cut or broken, you get a lot of ugly black rock.

I also have found a really neat piece of limestone, about 110 pounds I'd guess, which contains small fossil "mounds" of a Cambrian age algae. It's a really nice piece because it displays the mounds in three dimensions, with a nice vertical view, and a horizontal face through the base. I

could collect it, if I could lift it. I think it might be on private land, so no hassles with the Federal rules about fossil collecting, but what to do with it ?? It's really the sort of rock that would do well as a door stop in a lab at a basement Geology department where someone cares about Cambrian algae.

I will miss the September meeting, and the presentation Colin will give on his western journey, including Yellowstone. I'd like to hear about his adventures, and his explanations of our special geology, but I will be THERE ! Thank you Andy for leading the meeting, and for arranging an interesting series of programs for the Fall and Winter.

I hope all our members had a safe and healthful Summer, and will join us at the September meeting. I'll see you in October, Tom

### **MSDC Meeting Minutes - June 2011** - Secretary Denise Whitman

(Editor's note: We are catching up on the publication of our meeting minutes. Enjoy the trip back through some enjoyable meetings earlier this year. Additional minutes will be published in the December issue. )

#### **MSDC Minutes, June 1, 2011**

President Tom Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Cathy Kirby Room at the National Museum of Natural History. Past presidents Ed Fisher and Andy Thompson were present and were thanked for their service. Mary Bateman, past president of EFMS was also present and recognized for her service. In all, 17 people attended this meeting.

The May minutes were approved as printed in the June newsletter.

There was one item of old business: Paul Dhyse found more minerals in his parents' collection. Susan Fisher will process these.

New business included 4 items:

- Mary Bateman thanked Susan Fisher for doing the newsletter while she was planning her move to New Jersey; and President Tom Tucker thanked Mary Bateman for continuing as editor of the *Mineral Minutes*.
- Pat Rehill is looking for a stereo-microscope. Tom suggested a website: "absoluteclarityandcalibration.com," an optical company, as well as checking the resources of the micromounters' meetings.

- The EFMS/AFMS Convention will be held in Syracuse, New York, from July 6 to 10.
- A motion was passed and approved that Mary Bateman would be our delegate to this convention.

Vice-President/Program Chair Andy Thompson gave a preview of our Fall programs. Possibilities include talks on the Virginia/dental office meteorite, a presentation by George Loud on his field trips, and another by Northern Virginia Community College professor on his studies, and a behind-the-scenes Smithsonian tour (Tim Rose?).

For "Geology in the News," we had several reports:

- Sheryl Sims recently returned from a trip to Scotland and Ireland. She left the area before the Icelandic volcano erupted which caused many European airports to cancel their flights. She brought two books: *Geology of Ireland: County by County* by Patrick N. Wyse Jackson, Matthew Parkes and Mike Simms, and *The Valentia Island Tetrapod Tracks* by Matthew Parkes.
- Tom Tucker mentioned several events. A tornado hit the Historic lead mining district of Missouri. It spared the Richy Tri-State Museum .
- Also, a gunman armed with an AK-47 showed up on the campus of a Missouri college. He "visited" the Geology Department and was eventually captured. No one was hurt.
- Also, southern Montana is experiencing its worst flooding in recorded history. And the Army Corps of Engineers is trying to maintain the courses of several outlets of the Mississippi Delta.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Andy Thompson introduced our speaker for this evening: Dr. Richard Wunderman of the Dept. of Mineral Sciences at the National Museum of Natural History. His talk was entitled " The Global Volcanism Program: It's Purpose, Operations, and Impact."

The GVP was initiated in 1968 with the objective of collecting data on short-lived volcanic events, and making this information accessible to the scientific community and to the public. To this end, the *Bulletin of Global Volcanism Network* was published under the editorship of our speaker. A website was set up in 1999 by Ed Venzke under the auspices of the Smithsonian. For this site, Rich has been active in encouraging the input of amateur photographers who provide on-site images of volcanic activity.

Rich used the term "photo-wrangler" to describe someone who finds, views and assesses these images. The

organization of this vast array of data has helped the photographers to become more knowledgeable and long-term contributors to the network.

Rich emphasized the importance of forming these partnerships in order to understand the different facets of volcanic activity. Thanks again, Rich, for a wonderful evening of "hot stuff" !

The talk ended at 10:00 pm. And muchos gracias to the folks who brought refreshments.

## MSDC Minutes, September 7, 2011

President Tom Tucker is in Montana; Vice-President Andy Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm in the Cathy Kirby Room at the National Museum of Natural History. Past presidents Ed Fisher, Cynthia Payne (and Andy Thompson) were present and were thanked for their service. We welcomed 2 guests: Joanna Carlton and Michelle Arsenault. In all, 22 people attended this meeting.

The September issue of Mineral Minutes has been delayed: our editor, Mary Bateman, recently moved to New Jersey and her house sustained damage from hurricane Irene.

Our upcoming programs include a talk on Bulgarian minerals by Keith Williams on Oct. 5, a program on the Lorton meteorite by Dr. Cari Corrigan in November, and the Holiday dinner/gathering/elections on 12/07.

Our website has links about tonight's talk, Please send related links to Betty Thompson .

On-going/Old Business: Jack Busch introduced our newest member, Susan Marcus. A motion was passed and approved to accepted her membership.

"Geology in the News" had several items:

- during an earthquake, it is safest to position oneself next to a sturdy object, not under it. This is referred to as the "triangle of life."
- someone mentioned the Canadian- Texas oil pipeline.
- Sue Marcus reported the passing of Connie Smith on August 26. She was an avid collector of sharks' teeth at Calvert Cliffs.
- Jeff Guerber wanted to know if any mines in Virginia experienced flooding due to the recent earthquake.
- Sue Marcos also mentioned the upcoming retirement (10/01) of Hal Banks, a geologist in the Department of Education at NMNH.

- She also reported that the Naturalist Center is now closed. Its collections will be relocated from Virginia to the main museum.
- Joyce Hronik, the wife of Dick Hronik, a benefactor of our Society, recently passed away.

There was a moment of silence in remembrance for those who had lost their lives in the 9/11 events and in gratitude for those who presently serve our country. Member Steve Johnson, who is serving in Afghanistan, is especially in our thoughts. Thank you.

A motion was passed to close the business portion of the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Andy Thompson introduced tonight's speaker, Callan Bentley, who teaches earth science at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale. He gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Two Months of Rock and Road." This trip included not only a summer field trip for his NVCC students, but also a teacher-training seminar, and his wedding. Wow. The trip was mainly centered in the Montana/Wyoming (Yellowstone) area with sidetrips to the Burgess Shale in Alberta, Canada. He delved into the petrology and structural geology of this highly active area: folded and faulted rocks, volcanics, carbonates, and Archean sediments and, yes! sauropod tracks. He answered several questions, including ones about the presence of rare earth elements in the Devil's Tower, and the ability to visualize 4-dimensions in structural geology. He does a blog for AGU entitled "Mountain Beltway."

The talk ended at 9:30 pm. Thank you, Mr. Bentley, for a wonderful, virtual tour of the geology of the Yellowstone area and beyond!

Before breaking for refreshments, Andy Thompson reported that he has information regarding the upcoming GMLS auction.

Andy Muir was the winner of the raffle: he picked up a calcite from Indiana.

Many thanks to Susan Fisher and Betty Thompson for bringing refreshments. Betty made a cake for Cynthia Payne in celebration of her birthday. It's good to see you again, Cynthia!

### **A Sad Note: A Wonderful Friend of MSDC Has Passed Away**

Today's MSDC members stand on the shoulders of several generations of avid, knowledgeable and generous individuals. One such couple was Richard and Joyce Hronik. We recently were saddened to learn that Joyce

passed away. At a memorial service at Arlington Cemetery on 6 October 2011, Joyce was laid to rest beside Dick who had served in the military. They made important contributions to the world of mineral collecting, including years of service which Dick gave as a volunteer working side by side with our Smithsonian Natural History Museum's MSDC sponsor, Tim Rose. Notes of condolences may be sent to their son Richard Hronik Jr. at 1104 Nickels Place, SW, Leesburg, VA. 20175

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Nov 5-6: Exton, PA** - Tuscarora Lapidary Society, Inc. GEMARAMA Saturday November 5, 2011, 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday November 6, 2011, 10 AM - 5 PM. Location: Founders Pavilion at CFS, the School at Church Farm, 1001 E. Lincoln Highway, Exton, PA 19341. It is located 1/2 mile west of the Frazer - Rte. 30 exit off of Route 202. (Set your GPS unit to 1001 E. Lincoln Hwy, Exton, PA.) Admission: Admission is \$6 for adults, \$1 for children under 12 years of age; two-day adult tickets are \$9.

**Nov 12-13: Fairfax, VA** - **20th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Northern Virginia Mineral Club (VA)** George Mason University, Student Union Bldg., Rte 123 & Braddock Rd., Fairfax, VA Contact: Jim Kostka @ jkostka@juno.com

**Nov 25-27: Salem, Va** - 32nd Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Show Hosting Club- Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society Website- [www.rvmgs.com](http://www.rvmgs.com). Location- Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. Friday-2pm to 7pm, Saturday- 10am to 6pm, Sunday- 12pm to 5pm. Admission: Adults 3.00 under 16 free and ticket is good for all 3 days. Contact info: Jeff Mcfalls, email- [rocky@rvmgs.com](mailto:rocky@rvmgs.com)



### **Mark Your Calendar, Decide Your Dish**

Dear MSDC Members:

#### **December 7 will be MSDC's Annual Holiday Party. Start making plans now.**

Here is some "must know" and "must respond" information for our December's Holiday party.

1. For this December meeting, mark your calendar for starting one hour earlier than for our usual monthly meetings. For this month only, 7 December, we gather in the lobby so that at 6:45 pm, not 7:45 pm, we can trek on up to the Cathy Kerby room to begin our festivities.
2. This is a pot luck gathering. So drop us an email (bdthompson01 at yahoo.com) or give Betty a call (301-275-8285) and tell us if you are coming and what appetizer, main or side dish, dessert or drink you will be bringing.
3. In terms of the amount you intend to bring, keep in mind that we invite the year's past speakers to be our guests. We don't know how many will be attending, but typically about 25 to 30 persons attend. Since our membership has risen of late, we may have more attendees.
4. If anyone wants to volunteer to serve on an "Entertainment Committee" please give this your consideration and let us know. Last year several folks did a fine job and pleased one and all.
5. At our November meeting, President Tom Tucker will return from his field trip and will discuss our December holiday party as needed. Thanks for giving the above your consideration. - Andy Thompson

#### **One of My Favorite Things - Well Maybe, Not This Time**

- Susan Fisher

I have written a lot about many of my favorite things, but I am now engaged in one of my least favorite activities - cleaning out cabinets! The time has finally come for a kitchen renovation so the cabinets have to be cleared and things sorted. As I look at dented cake pans that I have had for forty plus years, I have started to think more about my mineral collection. (As you have already guessed, I would prefer to think about anything except the monumental number of drawers, cabinets, and closets I have to clean and all the items I have to box! Plus that, I have to decide what to keep, what to toss, and what to put in a yard sale - ugh!)

Our mineral collections can be like a kitchen, or a garage, if you guys can't relate to the kitchen. There are things that are out front that are referenced every day, there are things in drawers that are seen occasionally, and there are things that have gotten shoved to the very back of that limited storage space. But as a wise person once noted, one collector's trash may be another's treasure. Maybe it is time to pull out those boxes from the dim, dark recesses and look at the contents again. It may be time to share a few of these forgotten treasures with eager collectors who have a slightly different interest from you. That dull chunk of pegmatite material may be just what a teacher needs to demonstrate a point. A micro collector may find a hidden vug in that crumbly self-collected chunk of "leaverite" that produces a prize crystal for photographing. Those rare, ugly pieces may fill out a species collector's want list. The slightly dinged crystal may become a youngsters prized piece.

OK, you are almost willing to go look in the basement closet, but what do you do with the stuff if you pull it out? Your spouse will not be too thrilled to have a pile of dirty boxes in the middle of the family room. Here discretion is definitely in order. Organize your project. Have a few clean flats and boxes on hand. Have some labels and a big bucket. Cover your work surface with newspaper and have a trash bin handy. Take out a single box, dust off the spiders and carefully peer in. If a mouse doesn't stare back, it is probably safe to proceed. Look at the contents. Do you know what it is; do you remember where you got it; is it something you want to add to your collection; are you willing to give it away or sell it; or..... is it a really good addition to the rock pile out by the back fence? Make your decision - no fair putting it off. Buck up and just do it! If you are keeping it, giving it away, or selling it, make that label now with as much information as you have. Box it and put the box in the flat or put it in your collection. If it goes to the rock pile, dump it in the bucket. If you want to give it away or sell it, grab that computer (or a big yellow pad and a pen) and make a list. Do this for each piece in the box.

When you have done as many boxes as your patience will tolerate, clean your area. This is important to your domestic bliss and your overall well being. Put the trash in the trash basket and carry it out. Dump the rock bucket and stack the flats neatly. Take your sale/give away list to your next mineral club meeting and share with those you think may be interested. If you want a wider audience for sales, check on local shows or give eBay a try.

As your last step, congratulate yourself on sharing your bounty AND GETTING BACK SOME ROOM TO ADD MORE TO YOUR COLLECTION! Have fun.



## My Favorite Things – A Local Mineral Show

- Susan Fisher

(Editor's note: You get a second dose of *My Favorite Things* as the above piece was written for the September Mineral Minutes.)

I really like all mineral shows. I will attend anything from a private showing to the big events of the year, the Tucson and Springfield shows, but my favorites are the local shows. By local shows, I mean those within a very few hours driving time, depending on our variable traffic. (My definition of "local" may be somewhat skewed because I am from Texas where "local" is anything that can be reached without having to get hotel reservations or a plane ticket. The exact definition doesn't matter here, just put in your own.) Local shows are special because one gets to attend a show without taking a whole weekend that is already 120 percent full of chores; one can see friends and compare ideas on pieces, the show, or the world in general; the dealers have an idea of who will be attending and bring appropriate stock; and local clubs may benefit from the event.

You may be wondering why I prefer the shows to a quick search of the net and an even quicker parting with my funds. There are a number of great internet dealers with beautiful sales sites and I do visit them. I look at some sites almost every day to see what is new, beautiful and/or interesting and I do buy some things. However, I don't get the same satisfaction as I do when I actually see the mineral and compare it to others of its kind. I like to talk with the dealer and find out as much history of a piece as I can. I also like to get to know the dealer. There are some great, interesting people in this hobby and this is one way to get to know a few of them. Since I have not won a multimillion dollar lottery or been included in a rich relative's will, my funds for minerals are somewhat limited. I want to get the maximum enjoyment out of each dollar spent. That enjoyment includes the search through dealer's booths for just the right mineral to fill a specific spot in my collection. I have nothing against internet mineral dealers but the hands-on, in-person search is what appeals to me.

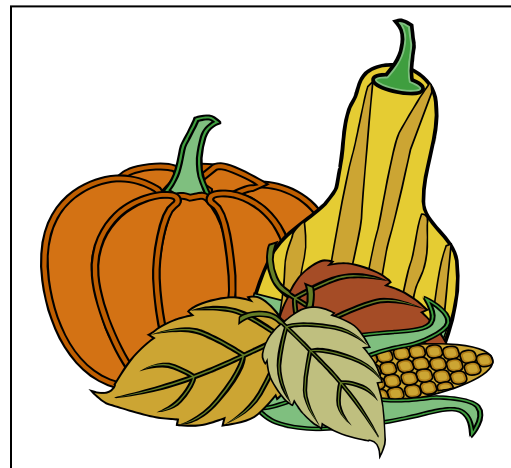
To me, the days before a show are also part of the fun. I run through my mental and physical catalogs of pieces and look for specific holes in the collection. I do some research on what is currently available and what locations would best fill the perceived void. I may even contact a few dealers to see if they have some of the desired material and are planning to bring it to the show. I check with the household chief financial officer, my husband, for a budget (usually after I have given him grilled steak, baked potatoes, and homemade desert. Look, I was a project

manager for twenty-five years and I know you have to take care of the budget folks!) If a club asks for it, I try to volunteer to help as shows are labor intensive for the sponsoring club. Then I set the alarm clock for an hour earlier than it really has to be to get to the show at opening time. Anticipation is a great motivator to get me moving!

At the show, I make a quick circuit of the dealers to see who and what is there. I then go back and carefully consider potential purchases. The usual situation is a list of potential purchases that far exceeds the budget allocated. (Where is that rich uncle when I need him?!?) Some of these items may be on the "want list" I had created before I went to the show and others may just be something that appealed to me. As I don't ask for things to be set back unless I am actually buying them, this has to be done pretty quickly. (I don't feel it is fair to tie up dealer's stock when he might make another sale, but different dealers have differing ideas about this practice.)

OK, now I have my little bag of treasures purchased and my check book is empty. I can make the circuit of the exhibits and appreciate each for the quality of the material, the beauty of the display and the work that went into creating it. I can visit with friends and share the triumphs of the day. I can find a few spare dollars to buy a few small, kid-safe pieces for the great-niece and I can reflect on the joys of being with friends in a hobby we all enjoy. Local shows are great fun!

**(Acting editor's note: Mark your calendars for the Northern Virginia Mineral Club show November 12 and 13 at George Mason University. They are looking for volunteers to help with the show. If you can do so, please give Jim Kostka a call - 202-207-5437. Try a local show, you will like it!)**



**Have a safe and joyous Thanksgiving!**

## **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  
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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 meeting in July and August.)

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 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!**

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## **MINERAL MINUTES**

Newsletter of the Mineralogical  
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Susan Fisher – Temporary Editor  
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