

# Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia



## *MINERAL MINUTES*

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

*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.*

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

**Vol. 71, No. 12**

**Founded 1942**

**December 2012**



### **LET'S CELEBRATE!**

**Mark Your Calendars for the MSDC Holiday Party**

**By Andy Thompson**

Our mineral club, one of the oldest in the United States, will celebrate our longevity and youth during our December holiday gathering scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 2012. We will meet at the Fishers house in Centreville, VA. This will allow us to get an earlier start to our celebration. We will need YOUR help to organize food for our gathering. Please send a note via e-mail to Susan Fisher at [novaya2@cox.net](mailto:novaya2@cox.net) or give her a call at 703-830-9733. If possible she would like to know what you plan to bring by November 25.

December 2012

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**THE PREZ SAYS...**

*By Tom Tucker*

**Thanks to All!**

As another year of activities with the MSDC comes to a close, I'd like to thank everyone who has worked to make the Club a successful gathering of mineral enthusiasts. Andy has worked diligently to find and bring to our meetings a variety of interesting and

informative speakers, which are the core of our monthly activities. I truly believe this is the most difficult task of any club leader, and we should all thank Andy for a job well done.

Pat has dutifully prepared our board and meeting minutes which record and confirm all the activities we undertake. I know the constraints this can present to the enjoyment of Club activities, having myself failed miserably in a similar position with another group. It's pretty much a thankless task, and I do appreciate Pat's devotion to duty.

Rick has "kept our books", and handled and preserved our financial activities. This is another onerous duty I hesitate to wish on anybody, and Rick has fulfilled all of our needs and expectations. Dues are collected, bills paid, balances documented. I trust that the balances are in order and the Club financially solvent.

Our three Board members, Cynthia, Dave H. and Dave N. have served to fill out our leadership group, and have contributed ideas and support for the decisions that must be made to keep the Club active, and rewarding to us all.

Sheryl has done a "bang up" job with our monthly newsletter - the Mineral Minutes! I had to pause just now to make certain I was using "proper English". So I'm startled by finding the first definition of "bang up" as meaning "damage or destroy as if by violence". No, I don't mean that Sheryl. It's the second and apparently more popular definition: "very good, excellent, awesome". Thank you Sheryl, for every month bringing all of us an interesting and informative newsletter, something we can all be proud of. But the newsletter is only a success if YOU write articles, whether they be informative, entertaining, humorous, or challenging. Please support Sheryl with abundant worthy material for the Minutes.

I hope none of these comments dissuade any of our incoming leaders from undertaking the tasks at hand. I thank the nominating committee, Sheryl, Dave, and Dave, for presenting us with a slate of new officers who I am certain will lead us to new success. I truly "drafted" this committee, and

I thank them for accepting the task at hand, and presenting us with a slate of responsible leaders for the Club.

And I thank all of you have continued to support the Club with your regular participation in our monthly meetings, and other activities. Without your participation, there is little reason for our being. You must contribute articles to the Minutes, you must suggest to the Club programs of interest, or even better, present a program yourself dealing with your favorite mineral activity. You must attend the monthly meeting when you can to keep the Club vibrant and worthy. It is the membership that will determine the success of MSDC for another 70 years, or more. Thank you all for your support the last few years. Let's go mineral collecting.

**Field Trip Reminders**

We've not been known as an active "field trip" club, but we do have a few in the works. On February 23, 2013, we have been invited to the annual pilgrimage to the mineralogical laboratories at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Full details will be in the January and February Minutes. Gather together some of your mineral unknowns, or just academic questions, and have them examined and answered.

We are contemplating two different field trips to visit significant mineral collections at William and Mary University, and also a local collector. Both should be events you won't want to miss.

Sometime in the coming few months, I will lead a "cave exploring" field trip with a couple of options - for the gung ho, we will visit a "wild" cave, and see many of the features that make caves special - biology, geology, history all intertwined. For those less "gung ho", we'll try to make a special visit to a developed cave which displays a variety of minerals and formations we all appreciate. No collecting at either place - we'll appreciate the minerals for what and where they are. Kids and old folks welcome - anyone who appreciates Nature and what it has for us.

If anyone would like to lead other mineral related excursions, please talk to the new officers, and let's make it happen.

**70th Anniversary Celebration**

I'm sure there is a more detailed announcement elsewhere in the newsletter concerning the Christmas (Holiday) Anniversary Party that Susan and Ed Fisher are hosting at their home in Centreville. Please read the announcement and directions. Bring a dish to share. Contact Susan to let her know what you are bringing, of to find out what we need. Bring a nice mineral gift, something you would be thrilled to receive yourself, to exchange with fellow members under the Crystal Christmas tree. Come join us for an enjoyable anniversary and holiday celebration. Hope to see YOU there.



***Celebrate the season with MSDC!***

**You and your family are invited to the Holiday Dinner and Party celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia!**

**Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.  
Susan and Ed Fisher's home in Centreville, VA**

**RSVP by Monday, Nov. 26, to Susan at [novaya2@cox.net](mailto:novaya2@cox.net) or 703-830-9733.**

MSDC members, please tell Susan what food or drinks you'll bring.

**Optional: Bring a wrapped mineral** for a mineral exchange – bring one, take home a surprise!

**Directions:** I-66 WEST for 12 miles past the beltway. Take **EXIT 52** onto US 29. **RIGHT** at bottom of ramp. Go one mile (through two traffic lights after the one at the bottom of the ramp). Cross Cub Run (a stream). Halfway up the hill from Cub Run, there's a left-turn lane (but no traffic light). Get into that left-turn lane. **Turn left onto WHITE POST ROAD** into Gate Post Estates. **Second left (.4 mile) to GOLD POST COURT**. If possible, please park on the circle and walk back to the final house on the pipe stem (14981).

**You are part of what makes MSDC a great club, so we want you with us to have a great party!**

***Join us for fun, friendship, and good food!***

# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

By Bob Simonoff



Starting at the top left: dolomite cast, morganite (related to aquamarine), pink fluorite with pyrite, rose quartz, pink diamond (rarest of the rare), pink fluorite from France, pink garnet from Mexico, pink smithsonite, pink rhodonite. (Photos by Bob Simonoff)

I was initially asked to do this by a new friend, but it has more meaning to me. My maternal grandmother got breast cancer years ago. She survived it and much later passed on due to unrelated causes. One of my maternal aunts got the same

diagnosis years later and is still alive. Then, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, fought it and is doing fine other than not being able to get warm anymore. Yeah, I know I am supposed to do pink flowers, but there are women miners, female

mineral collectors, women that wear jewelry made from crystals - so why not a 3x3 of natural pink crystals?



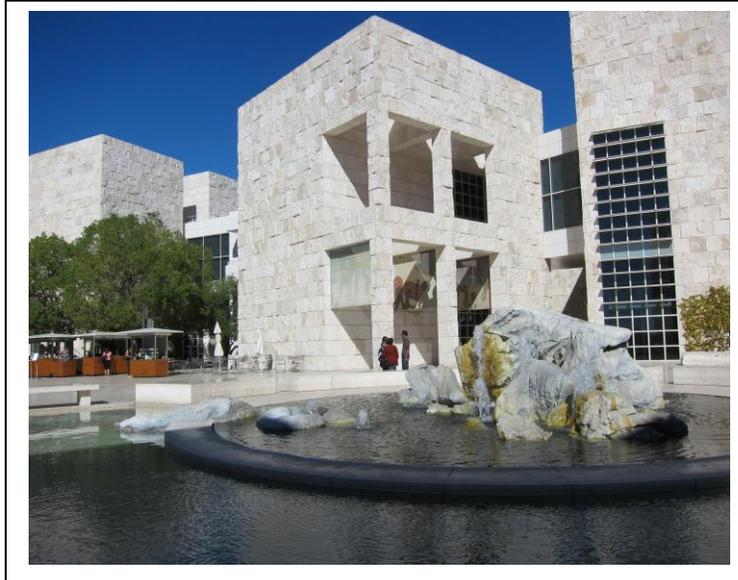
## Why Would Anyone Build With Travertine, Porous Rock As It Is?

By Andy Thompson  
Photos by Betty Thompson

On a recent visit to Los Angeles to attend a conference, we arrived early in order to take in some of the local sites. To start with, which should it be—a visit to the mineral collection of the LA Natural History Museum or to the world famous Getty Center Museum? The Getty won out. But surprisingly, going there opened a world of interesting mineral-related questions. It also occasioned the resolution of some long-standing puzzles.

The Getty Museum is located in the upscale Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles—north of downtown's tall buildings. It is a 110-acre campus nestled atop a hill in the Santa Monica mountains which provides stunning vistas south to the city and west to the Pacific Ocean. It is comprised primarily of six gleaming white buildings whose stated purpose is “to inspire curiosity about, and enjoyment and understanding of the visual arts by collecting, conserving, exhibiting and interpreting works of art of outstanding quality and historical importance.” The Getty Trust aims to engage the public by providing numerous activities throughout the year. It also encourages visitors to stroll between the buildings, check out the overlooks, and meander

through the extensive garden featuring over 400 azaleas. So, the Center seems more like a verb than like a noun, dynamic rather than static, encouraging active dialogue more than passive viewing.



Beyond the various forms of art, what immediately captured my curiosity was why its benefactor, the J. Paul Getty Trust foundation, with its famed oil money, as well as Richard Meier, with his acclaimed architectural expertise, would use such a porous stone. I thought it must have some structural weaknesses. Nonetheless, how much travertine did they use? They used sixteen thousand tons, which covered 1.2 million square feet of walls, plazas, courtyards and walkways. That material, combined with glass and off-white enamel clad aluminum panels, comprise the buildings' entire interior and exterior spaces.

While musing about this suspect stone, I remembered my earlier experiences in Italy of seeing so many of Rome's churches and public buildings clad in off-white stone which I presumed to

be marble or limestone. Many had the polished finish of marble and seemingly were less subject to the ill effects of weathering. At the time, I had no knowledge of travertine and so did not “see it” in the buildings. In contrast, when one arrives at the Getty Center, the guides and literature let you know that it is travertine buildings and walkways that you are seeing.



The roots of my misunderstanding about travertine’s supposed weakness came from my earlier visit to Rome’s Sapienza University. Their mineral department has an extensive marble display depicting how the entire Italian peninsula was originally submerged underwater for millions of years. During that time, the calcium carbonate shells of deceased aquatic life deposited on the sea floor and eventually, with pressure and heat, became the densely packed marble which builders subsequently used for so many public structures of the Roman Empire.

Without sufficient fluency to be able to read the display’s Italian signs, I formed the general impression that all these building materials, marble, limestone and whatever were probably essentially the same, namely calcium carbonate. That was my first mistake. So I was comfortable hearing the term “travertine marble” even though I later learned that travertine is not marble. Nor, is it limestone. Yes, they all do start out as calcium carbonate, but travertine is the end product of less pressure, inclusion of plant fossils, and having initially incorporated carbon dioxide gas bubbles, hence its greater porous nature. Marble has no gas bubbles and it goes through a metamorphic transformation with greater pressure and higher temperatures. So, marble is not a sedimentary rock.

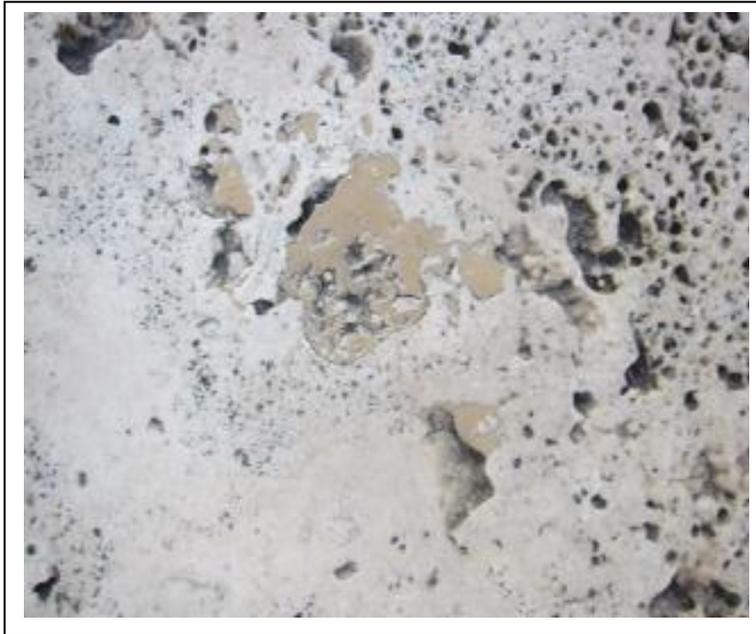
There are two ways of quarrying sedimentary rock formations, vertically which cuts down through the layers which have built up over the centuries. When that happens, the end product shows little telltale thin lines, like tree rings, which depict the annual layers of the deposits. But the Getty Center chose to quarry its travertine based on horizontal cuts along a few years’ deposition. They used a guillotine device to split off rock sections which provided an uneven finish and allowed viewers to glimpse its Swiss cheese like finish and an occasional leaf or other forms of plant life. So, on close inspection, that visual appearance of the Getty stone panels’ tiny holes added to my concern about the structural strength of the material.

Only after investigation did I discover that travertine, far from being fragile, was what Rome’s two thousand year old coliseum was made of, that Michelangelo used as the ribs supporting St. Peter’s dome and facade, that Bernini used for the pillars of St. Peter’s piazza and that later 18<sup>th</sup> century builders used for the Trevi fountain. Along with the modern Getty Center, all these structures used travertine taken from the same quarry, namely the small town 15 miles east of Rome, Bagni di Tivoli, the baths of Tivoli. In fact, the name travertine derives from a corruption of the town’s name, Tivoli.



## MINERAL MINUTES

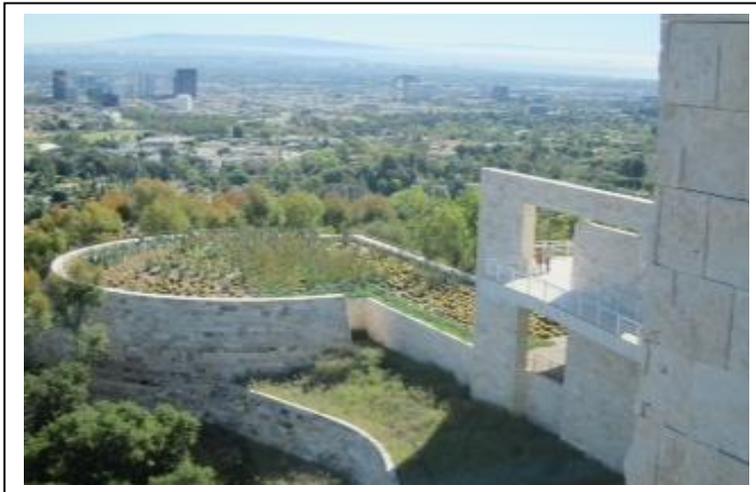
Anyone who has been to Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park and seen the exploding hot gaseous geysers has an implicit knowledge of how travertine is formed. The yellow stone of that Wyoming National Park is indeed sulfur tainted travertine. Similar to what happened at the hot baths of Bagni di Tivoli, its formation began with calcium carbonate precipitating from the hot water by degassing its fizzy carbon dioxide, and then later re-crystalizing. That process, repeated over thousands of years, resulted in a rich deposit of this remarkable stone which supplied first the Roman



Empire, and later the broader world.

All of those early Roman structures have famously stood the test of time. So, I expect the Getty Center will do so as well. If only I had known beforehand, that Rome's ancient coliseum was built of porous travertine, I would not have had to research this question, write it up by verbally degassing my imagination and take up rock club members' time

reading this article. But, then again, I would not have learned as much and, as mineral collectors know, the exploration of being on a field trip or pursuing a question is a treasure in itself.



### *Proposed 2013 Slate of Officers & Board Members*

*President: Steve Johnson*  
*VP: Rick Reiber*  
*Secretary: Patricia Flavin*  
*Treasurer: Rebecca Siegal*  
*Directors: Dave Hennessey*  
*Dave Nanney*  
*Andy Thompson*  
*Editor: Sheryl Sims*

## Johnny & Dawn Johnsson's Chromite Presentation (Presented as Mr. & Mrs. Tyson)

(photos by S. Sims)



(lower left to right -- Mike Kaas, Rebecca Siegal, Dawn Johnsson, Betty Thompson, guests: Dave & Linda Foley; Rick Reiber)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Guests are always welcome at our meetings!**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Linked In:** (Tom Tucker) [http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/345849/description/Prospecting\\_for\\_Quasicrystals](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/345849/description/Prospecting_for_Quasicrystals)

**Mineral Quiz:** Which of the following is not part of the feldspar family? a) Spodumene; b) Moonstone; c) Sunstone; d) Labradorite. (See answer on p. 13.)

# First Class Specimens: What to Look For

by Tom Pallanta, Jr. from Rock Chatter, May 2011 (from Gem Cutters News –November, 2012 p. 8-9)

When you collect minerals or fossils, it is not unusual to hear a number of terms tossed about. You sometimes hear of a specimen being referred to as “World Class, First Class, Museum Quality, Low Class”, or “Poor Quality” What is happening here is that various minerals and fossils are being classified according to the quality of the specimen.

This is because high quality specimens are much prized. To have a collection containing a good number of high quality pieces is a badge of honor. It marks you; the collector is being a person of discerning eye and a good judge of quality. Nothing is more satisfying than to have your friends praising your collection for all of its good qualities.

But how do you tell a good quality specimen from one of poor quality. What I am going to cover here are the

basic ground rules that will help you pick out that quality piece, whether it is mineral or fossil.

## Mineral Criteria

When it comes to minerals there are a number of basic criteria necessary in choosing a good specimen.

1. Crystal Perfection - This is the most important first rule. A specimen whose crystals are well-defined and free of chips, nicks or scratches is first rate.

2. Color and Clarity - Besides having good crystal structure, it is important that the color of the crystals be as intense as possible; unless the crystals are clear. For instance, if the mineral has red crystals...then pick the specimen whose crystals exhibit the deepest and most uniform shade of red. If the crystals are clear, then pick the clearest ones.

3. Luster - Brightness catches the eye and gives sparkle to a specimen. Such specimens command attention and they are pleasing to look at.

4. Association - Minerals do not always form alone. They often form in association with other materials...like fluorite and sphalerite. Pieces where the contrast of association, like black crystals on white are more desirable. Picking a piece where this association is most pleasing to your eye is a good rule-of-thumb.

5. Size - In mineral collecting size does matter. It is the quality of the specimen that wins out over size. That is because smaller crystals are often more perfectly formed than larger ones. Then there are the more practical concerns of storage and display. You can store or display smaller pieces than you can with larger ones. However, if the big specimen has all of the above qualities then it is definitely worth taking home if you are in the field. If you are considering buying a specimen like this and the price is very reasonable, then perhaps you should consider it. A specimen like that can be traded later on.

## Fluorescent Mineral Criteria

Fluorescent minerals are different from regular specimens. The depth and intensity of color exhibited under ultraviolet light is the most important quality in a fluorescent mineral. Pieces that exhibit a lot of deep rich color are preferred. If the piece displays three or more colors simultaneously under ultraviolet light, then you have very desirable item.

## Fossil Criteria

Unlike minerals, fossils are the preserved remains of plants and ani-



The “Empress of China”  
Rhodochrosite  
Wudong Mine, Wuzhou  
Guangxi Zhuang, China



Fluorite, Barite & Sphalerite  
Denton Mine, Hardin Co. IL



Dinosaur eggs - China

## First Class Specimens

continued from page 9

mals from prehistoric times. The criteria for choosing fossils are different!

1. Preservation - When it comes to fossils, the quality of preservation is everything. A plant or animal fossil that is complete and displays clear and distinct features should be your first choice if purchasing a specimen. The same is true for bones and teeth. Always pick the most complete and best preserved piece that you can afford. If you are collecting in the field, then things are different. There is no way of telling with certainty which way the rock will break. If the rock breaks and only partially exposes a potential good specimen, then wrap it up, and put it in your collecting bag. Wait until you are at home where you can take the time and care with finer tools to prepare the specimen properly. There are some localities where obtaining good specimens are difficult due to the nature of the preservation. In such cases, you simply take what you feel are the best pieces and leave the lesser pieces behind.

2. Preparation - When you are buying fossils which are on a matrix, the preparation is everything. A specimen which has been fully exposed without receiving damage in the process is the most desirable. Look the specimen over carefully to see that it has not been damaged or repaired. Repairs are something which you have to look out for. People in countries like China and Morocco have gotten very adept at repairing fossils. In some cases

they will take two pieces and carefully splice them together to make a whole fossil. Through conversations with Billy Beal, I have learned that some Chinese are making "fake" dinosaur eggs. They take eggshell fragments and glue them around a core of plaster to match the matrix. Such fakes can be very hard to spot.

In the case of bones and teeth which have been removed from matrix, look for pieces that show clear preservation, no chips, cracks, repairs, and no tool marks. Watch out for specimens that have been glued back together...if possible. In vertebrate fossils a repair job on the specimen is acceptable, if it has been done well. If you are purchasing, make sure that they are not asking a first class price for that item. Repaired pieces command lower prices.

If you are cleaning a specimen and damage occurs, keep the pieces and carefully try to glue them back together. A white glue or clear epoxy is best. When doing your own fossil preparation be patient. Take your time and use good judgment. It is nice to completely expose a good fossil, but it is not always possible. Sometimes, you just have to leave a specimen just as you found it, or only do a minimum cleaning. The choice is up to you. Just remember...if it shatters...you cry!

## World Class Specimens

A subject like this is not complete without a definition of "World Class Specimens". With minerals, "World Class Specimens" are the "Crème-de-la-cream" of our hobby. They are the most highly desired items, but they are usually out of reach of all but museums and very wealthy collectors.

With minerals, a specimen with very large crystals which exhibits all of the best qualities is usually described as "World Class." Such pieces are usually quite rare and their unusual size makes them real eye-catchers. These are the specimens which usually grace the collections of museums and the wealthiest of collectors.

However, there have been cases where a regular collector gets lucky. One former club member went on a trip to New Hampshire where he collected a large specimen of fluorescent eucryptite. This specimen was a foot long and contained several veins of eucryptite which fluoresced so brilliantly red that the piece was declared to be the "Type Specimen" for that mineral. In short...it is "World Class".

## Museum Quality

The term "Museum Quality" usually refers to fossils. Such a fossil should be perfectly preserved whether it's a plant or animal. All of the details should be crisp and clearly defined. When it comes to vertebrate

skeletons...it should be complete or more complete than any skeleton of that species which has ever been found. In short...it should be worthy of being in a museum display.

When it comes to obtaining "Museum Quality" fossils it is not very hard to purchase plant and invertebrate specimens of that

quality. In fact... some can be purchased quite reasonably while others are much more expensive. Finding such fossils in the field is still possible, but, it takes luck and careful preparation afterwards.

As for vertebrate fossils ...there are some very fine fossils available on the market. Excellent

quality specimens like shark teeth and Green River Fish can be obtained at reasonable prices. Beyond that, the regular collector usually has to be content with spare teeth and bones. Complete skeletons, even small ones, are usually beyond our means...even in the field.



**MSDC Meeting Minutes for November 2012 will be included in next month's issue.**

**How YOU Can Support MSDC!**

- Are you able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings? (Contact Betty Thompson)
- Do you have articles that you'd like to share? (Contact Sheryl Sims)
- Do you have speaker/presentation ideas? If so, please contact one of our MSDC board members.

**Upcoming Events & Presentations**

**Nov. 17 & 18:** 21st Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org). Show site - George Mason University, Student Union Bldg. II (The Hub), Rte. 123 & Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA. Hrs.; Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM 20 plus Dealers selling Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Gems, Jewelry, Carvings, Meteorites & more! Demonstrations, Exhibits, Door Prizes & Kid's Activities including, Mini-mines & Fossil Dig. Silent Auction on Sunday. Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3. Children (12 & under) FREE, Scouts in uniform FREE, GMU Students w/valid ID FREE. GMU Campus map: <http://eagle.gmu.edu/map/fairfax.php>. Parking: On campus use GMU's parking Lot A. Enter Lot A from Nottaway River Lane where you will also find our courtesy shuttle to the Mineral show.

**March 2-3:** 50th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society will be held at the Delaware Technical & Community College, in Newark, DE.

**June 2-3:** 63rd EFMLS Convention & Show hosted by the Island Rockhounds and Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Plainview, NY. EFMLS Meeting, Friday, May 31.

Treasurer's Note: Treasurer, Rick Reiber



(Photo by S. Sims)

Pending the club's upcoming vote on the 2013 proposed slate of officers, please welcome Rebecca

Siegal as the new MSDC Treasurer. You may continue to use the existing email and postal addresses. Any changes to email and/or postal addresses will be published in the newsletter.

2013 Dues! \$20 for single member-ships. \$25 for family memberships. Why not invite your friends and family to join MSDC?

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS? Please sign-up with Betty Thompson to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings.



(Photo by Cynthia Payne)

WELCOME! MSDC welcomes you and thanks you for joining us! Guests are always welcome to attend MSDC meetings. Please continue to invite your friends!

2012 Speaker Flash Back!

- January 2012: Dr. Cari Corrigan gave a wonderful presentation on Meteorites in Antarctica.
February 2012: Tom Tucker, MSDC President, gave an informative presentation on his mineral travels in Vietnam.
March 2012: Alan Cutler, (Author and geology professor at Montgomery College) spoke on the geological and mineralogical vision of Nicholas Alan Cutler Steno (1638-1686).
April 2012: Joe Marx (Adjunct Professor of Geology, NVCC) discussed Bowen's Reaction Series.
May 2012: Dr. Cari Corrigan gave an informative presentation on the Lorton Meteorites.
June 2012: Ray Stanford shared information on dinosaur tracks in Maryland and brought in wonderful fossils for us to examine and enjoy.

- July 2012: No meeting.
August 2012: No meeting.
September 2012: Bob Simonoff gave an informative presentation on The Ste. Marie Aux Mines Mineral Show.
October 2012: Susan Fisher presented information on Fluorites - "A Mineral for All Seasons."
November 2012: Geologist, Johnny Johnsson (& his wife, Dawn), shared their passion about the history of chromite mining in MD and PA.

MSDC Fundraiser: Buy A Sign! Talk to Tom Tucker.



Answer to question on p. 8: a) Spodumene -Spodoumene is a lithium-rich mineral whose two major gem varieties are kunzite (pink to purple) and hiddenite (green). Moonstone, sunstone, and labradorite are part of the feldspar family. Feldspar minerals make up more than half of the earth's rocky crust. (Source: Smithsonian Institution, "What Do You Know About Rocks, Minerals, And Gems?" Knowledge Cards Quiz Deck.)

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A special “thank you” to fellow MSDC club members who have served, and volunteered to serve (again, for some) as officers and board member in the 2013. Our club would not be the great club that it is without your commitment, time, and can-do attitudes! As you can see from the proposed slate on page 8, we have another hardworking team in place. We look forward to another year of educational and interesting presentations, commarderie, and minerals!

**Some Faces & Job Titles Will Change, But The Commitment to MSDC Will Stay The Same!**



(photo by Susan Fisher)

I-r: Andy Thompson, Tom Tucker, Dave Hennessey, Dave Nanney  
front row: Cynthia Payne, Sheryl Sims, Rick Reiber, Pat Flavin



**Sheryl Sims, Editor – Gentle readers, this is YOUR newsletter.**

Please support our bulletin by submitting to me, your mineral-related news, articles, photos and/or links. Your fellow club members will enjoy reading about your hobby-related interests, field trips, mineral finds and other news worthy items. Remember—no news—no newsletter! The *Mineral Minutes* newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. Please email your submissions to me at <sesims4 at cox.net>. Thank you!

**MSDC RAFFLE!**

**Thank you for your mineral donations.  
They will be used as door prizes.**



(photos by S. Sims)

**Your winning ticket is in the bag!**

**Please Remember to Check out MSDC on FACE BOOK!**

Thanks to Steve Johnson, we have a Face Book page for our club. Please remember to visit “Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia” to share your comments, links, and photos. (Administrators are: Steve Johnson, Betty Thompson, Bob Simonoff and Sheryl Sims.)

**MINERAL MINUTES**

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** Join us for dinner at the Pier 7 Restaurant at 6:00 PM for dinner before the club meeting.  
650 Water St SW, (at S L St), Washington, DC 20024, (202) 554-2500, www.pier7restaurant.com/Menu.  
**Please call Susan Fisher at 703-830-9733 to make a reservation if you wish to attend.**

**Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings and dinners!**  
**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 BY JANUARY 10.**

Pay at December or January meeting or mail to:

**Mineralogical Society of DC**  
**P.O. Box 9957**  
**Alexandria, VA 22304**  
**Name(s)** (First and Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone(s): Home/Work/Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**OK TO INCLUDE YOU ON CLUB MEMBERSHIP LIST?** Distributed to Club members only.

- 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?**

**MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

(2013 Officers & Board Members)

- President: Steve Johnson, stevikj@gmail.com
- Vice President & Program Chair: Rick Reiber, Mathfun34@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Patricia Flavin, patriciarehill@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Rebecca Siegal, Mathfun34@yahoo.com, (mail: c/o MSDC, P.O. Box 9957, Alexandria, VA 22304)
- Director: Dave Nanney
- Director: Dave Hennessey
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**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, 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. Street parking: **THERE ARE NOW PARKING FEES, PAYABLE AT THE KIOSKS, AND ENFORCEMENT UNTIL 10 PM.**

# ***MINERAL MINUTES***



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



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