

Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia



MINERAL MINUTES

The Mineral Minutes is the award winning 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. 72, No. 10

Founded 1942

December 2013

December 4, 2013

**IT'S TIME FOR OUR
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<i>MSDC Holiday Party</i>	2
<i>The Pres Says</i>	3
<i>Summary AFMS Convention</i>	4
<i>Hazel Remaley, EMFLS Pres.</i>	5
<i>Secretary's Report</i>	6-7
<i>AFMS Award Recipients</i>	8-9
<i>Did You Know?</i>	10
<i>Rocking a Cycle of Life</i>	11-13
<i>Williamsite</i>	14-15
<i>Linked-in</i>	16
<i>Officers & Board Members & Treasurer's Note</i>	17
<i>Speaker Flash Back, Upcoming Events & EFMLS News</i>	18-20
<i>Federation News</i>	21-22
<i>Safety Matters</i>	23
<i>Multi-Federation Field Trip</i>	24
<i>Membership Application</i>	25



MSDC Holiday Party

Please join us for the MSDC holiday party. This year it will be held starting at 6 PM on Saturday, December 7, 2013, at the Fisher's home. This will be a fun time so just bring yourselves and any guests. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped mineral.

There is no need to bring a dish as all refreshments will be provided. We will have our election of officers, the presentation of our donation to the Smithsonian Mineral Sciences Department and our scholarship to a student at George Washington University. We may also have a raffle for a couple of nice minerals to help support students in the Mineral Sciences Department at James Madison University. Members will be receiving an invitation with directions.

Please give Susan Fisher a call at 703-830-9733 with the number of persons in your group. Children, spouses, relatives, friends, co-workers and neighbors are most welcome. Come, visit, munch and enjoy!



THE PREZ SAYS...

By Stephen Johnson



(Photo: S. Sims)

Great meeting in November! We had several new people attend as well as a great presentation by Pat Flavin about fossils in the Calvert Cliffs area as well as the Super Dig at Sterling Hill in Franklin, NJ. I am really looking forward to the Northern Virginia Mineral Club's Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show being held out at George Mason University this weekend (23 and 24 November) at the Student Center at George Mason University. It's a great local show and I hope to see many of you there. If you have kids, I highly recommend you bring them...the NVMC does a great job at ensuring that they have plenty of displays and activities to introduce children to the hobby. You can get more info and a \$1 off coupon at their website: <http://www.novamineralclub.org>.

Also, as a further reminder before we get into the holiday season, the club's trip to James Madison University is coming up in February, so pull out your unknowns and bring them down to have some real testing done on them.

I'd also like to thank Susan and Ed Fisher for graciously extending the invitation to the club to have the holiday party at their house again this year. I'm looking forward to seeing their great collection. Also, we will be holding club elections at this meeting/party. Happy Holidays and I hope to see you at the holiday party.



We Salute and thank our Veterans!

Summary of the 2013 AFMS Convention

by Matt Charsky

I had the pleasure of attending the 66th Annual American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Convention from September 18th through 22nd which was held in Jacksonville, Florida. The host club, Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (JGMS), celebrated their 25th Annual Show and Sale and the theme of the show was "Heavens and Earth". Members of JGMS were wonderful AFMS hosts and supplied homemade baked goods and complimentary beverages at all the meetings. Convention meetings, Awards Banquet and Bulletin Editors Breakfast were held at the Jacksonville Marriott while the show set up was held at the Morocco Temple.



The show had educational exhibits and speakers from all over the country, a real life NASA moon rock, lectures on near earth bodies and meteorites, and continuous lapidary and jewelry demonstrations. They also planned a star gazing experience and picnic on the beach, but the weather cancelled the setup of the telescopes - the cookout, however, was still great anyway. The field trip was to a local beach for shark's teeth with the promotion that if you did not find shark's teeth you did not get out of the car.

It's always interesting to see dealers from other parts of the country. Florida was well represented with fossils and opalized shells. There were also plenty on mineral and jewelry booths among the over 40 dealers.

At the Award's Banquet, I had the privilege of accepting the position as AFMS 1st VP, which begins November 1st. If you have any questions about the AFMS, I'm the person who should know the answer or be able to get it for you. Just so you know, the outgoing

EFMLS News - Oct. - Nov., 2013 p.2

President was Don Monroe from the Southeast Federation and the incoming President is Richard Jaeger from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

The most notable AFMS statistic is that since the scholarship program's inception, they have provided scholarships to 589 students attending 133 universities and colleges. The total funds paid out now totals over \$1.6 million! This year, AFMS paid \$44,000 in 11 payments of \$4,000 to students selected by each participating Regional Federation's Honorary Awardee.

MSDC had several entries in the AFMS Bulletin Contest. Erich Grundel took 2nd Place in the Original Adult Articles Category for "Giants Take Baby Steps" and Dave Hennessey received Honorable Mention in the Written Features Category for "Mineral Identification Using the Raman Spectrometer at James Madison University". The big winner was Sheryl Sims who took 2nd Place in the Adult Poetry Category for "I Ain't Nuthin But A Rockhound", 3rd Place in the New Editors Category for "Mineral Minutes, October 2012", and 3rd Place in the Special Publications Category for "EFMLS Annual Meeting". Congratulations to each winner for their recognized effort. Awards were handed out at the November MSDC meeting. MSDC can now add the phrase "Award-Winning" in future newsletters.

The 2014 AFMS Convention is scheduled to be held in Tulsa, OK from July 9th through 13th. We will know more details about the convention as the date draws closer.

Keep submitting those award winning articles!

Hello, Let Me Introduce Myself

by Hazel Remaley, President



photo: EFMLS News

Does this face look familiar? I certainly hope you remember seeing my picture in this newsletter before. I've been around for quite some time. I have served as the All American Club program chairperson and the Each One Teach One chairperson. I was also elected to the positions of Region III Vice President for several terms and have been your 2nd and 1st Vice President. I enjoyed all these positions. Now I find myself in the awesome seat of President of the Eastern Federation.

As long as we're on the biography track, let me give you some background. My husband Marv and I have been married for 53 years (I was a child bride). We've been retired since 1992 and several years after retirement moved to Bradford Co., PA from

the Allentown, PA area. We had a slight involvement with the rock and mineral world through friends at church, but, when we moved to northern PA, we got involved in the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club in Sayre. I have served as president several years and have done the publicity for our annual show many years. We have collected in many states and provinces, but our favorite is our trips to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan "digging" for native copper. We have poundage at home – large and small pieces.

Enough about me. What I want to know is, what have you and your club members been up to lately? Do you really know what your job is? Is there a job description for you as an officer? Have you been to any annual conventions? Did I meet you there? If not, why not? Do you know that as a club president you are a director of the Eastern Federation and should represent your club at the annual EFMLS convention? So, you say, what difference does that make? One voice will not make a difference. Wait a minute! If you do not attend a convention, how can you make a difference? Have a gripe? Let's hear about it. My eyes and ears are open to you. Feel free to contact me anytime.

This is just the first message. In the future I hope to be writing about the responsibilities of the committee chairs and officers. Interested anyone?

Hazel

Secretary's Report



By Patricia Flavin

Meeting Date: November 6, 2013

Meeting Place: Cathy Kerby Rm.-CE 340, The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Attendees: 26

Agenda Club President Steve Johnson recognized past presidents: Andy Thompson & Cynthia Payne, Eric Grundel

Minutes Approved: September 2013, (October 2013 no meeting)

Visitors: George, Patricia, Tom & Rebecca Kinney. (*see note below)

Treasurer's report: Rebecca Siegal accounted for the club funds.

Old Business: Steve Johnson commented on the new logos for the membership cards. There was follow-up discussion about should we adopt a new logo or stay with the old.

New Business:

- Visitors: the Kinneys, have recently put an ad on Craigslist to sell a mineral collection for their client. Northern Virginia Mineral Club member, Jim Koskta, contacted them and has helped spread the word that they need buyers. Steve Johnson brought in a huge slab of Prehnite that he purchased from them. Others were welcomed to contact the Kinneys.
- Matt Charsky and Steve presented EFMLS literary awards to club members: Eric Grundel (3 articles), Sheryl Sims (2 articles), and Andy Thompson was also given an award for his article.
- EFMLS literary awards were also presented to David Hennessey (1), Eric Grundel (1), Sheryl Sims (2) plus a Third Place Award for New Editor. Congrats to all winners from our club!
- **Club Officer Nominations:** There is no nominating committee this year. Steve Johnson, President, Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal, and Sheryl Sims, Editor, have agreed to stay in their positions. Rick Reiber, VP, is asking to be replaced. Patricia Flavin, Secretary, has expressed interest in running for the VP position and Rick Reiber agreed to replace her as secretary. Anyone interested in running for any office is encouraged to do so. We will vote for officers at the December meeting.

Bring in your donations of minerals so the club can have more numerous specimens for the monthly raffle. Rick Rieber, VP, announced plans for the upcoming December Holiday Party.

Geology in the News: Cynthia Payne discussed a recent event. It was also noted that the Russian meteorite has been located and dragged out of a lake.

Club Show Announcements:

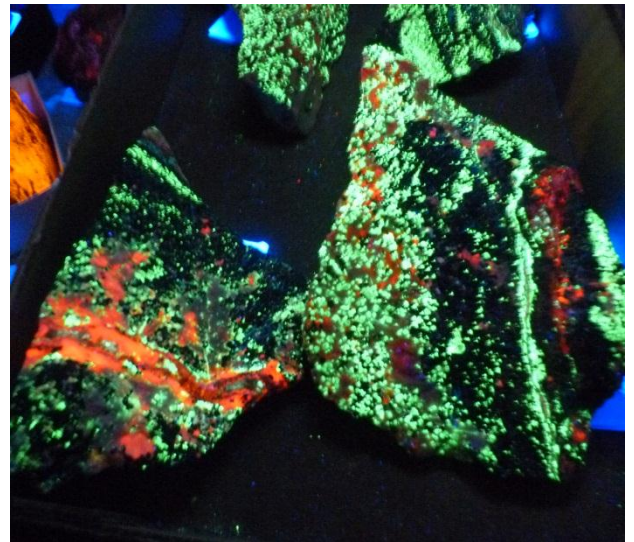
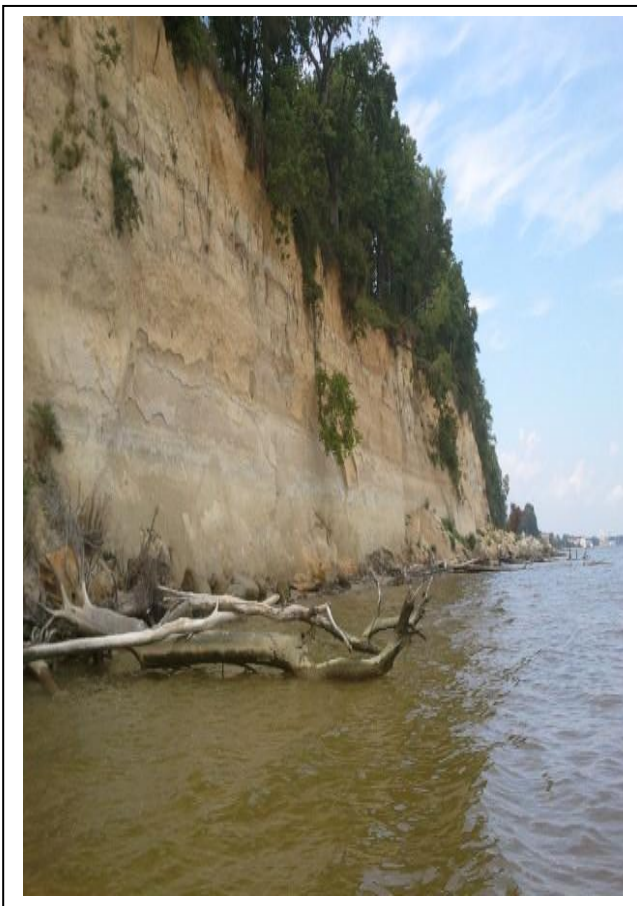
November 23 & 24-The 22 Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show presented by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club and sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at George Mason University.

Motion to Adjourn to the Program

Program: Two documentary videos were presented by Patricia Flavin, Northern Virginia area Realtor, and an avid fossil & mineral collector. The first was the April 2013 “Sterling Hill Mine, NJ, Fluorescent Mineral Super Dig” trip, that showed how to identify the fluorescent minerals: Zincite, Franklinite, Calcite, Willemite, Hydrozincite, that are found in this mine. Several club members attended this event that was also held at night to reveal the fluorescent minerals and their associated colors on the side of a cliff at the mine. The second documentary featured “Fossil Hunting at the Calvert Cliff Formation, Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, MD.” This fossil rich area was once part of an ancient tropical ocean during the Miocene Epic. Fossils found are dated to 8-22 million years old. They include whale vertebrae, several varieties of shark teeth, including the famed Megalodon, coral, and even artifacts of ancient Indian populations.

Meeting adjourned a 9:45pm & Refreshments were served.

Calvert Cliff Formation, Chesapeake Beach, Md.



EFMLS Results from the AFMS Competitions - EFMLS News --Oct. -- Nov., 2013

EFMLS Clubs Do Well in AFMS Contests....

compiled by Ye Olde Editor (Carolyn Weinberger)

The 2013 AFMS /SFMS Convention held in Jacksonville this past September is now history. Eastern Federation was well represented at the AFMS meeting by Matt Charsky, Cheryl Neary and Hazel Remaley. Several other EFMLS members attended as well. These conventions are always a fun time and wonderful opportunity to get together with friends from across the U.S.

Several competitions are held each year with entries in each first being submitted for evaluation at the regional federation level, and then the top three entries in the various categories forwarded to AFMS for further evaluation. Eastern entries did fairly well again this year with the following results:

Web Site competition

8th place

Ken Casey
Delaware Mineralogical Society
Wilmington, DE
<www.delmineralsociety.org>

10th place

Brad Grant
Baltimore Mineral Society
Baltimore, MD
<www.baltimoremineralsociety.org>

12th place

Beth Hadley
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society
Richmond, VA
<rgms-va.info>

Bulletin Editor's Contest Original Adult Articles

2nd place

Giants Take Baby Steps
by Erich Grundel
Mineralogical Society of District of Columbia; Mineral Minutes, 5/12

8th place

Tourmaline by Bev Eisenacher
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
Rock Buster News, 10/12
Honorable Mention
Move Over Hope Diamond
by Dave MacLean
Northern Virginia Mineral Club
The Mineral Newsletter, 12/12

Original Articles - Advanced

2nd place

Shoobox Adventures:
The ID Problem, by Mike Seeds
Baltimore Mineral Society
The Conglomerate, 7/1

4th place

What Am I Buying?, by Frank Craig
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
Rock Buster News, 11/12

Honorable Mention

A "World" of Granite in Elberton,
GA
by Walt Kubilius
Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
Hound's Howl, 6/12

Junior Articles (under age 12)

3rd place

Wildacres, by Isabella Brandon (11)

Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
Rock Buster News, 8/12

Junior Articles (age 12 - 17)

1st place

Droplets of Information
by Jessa Potvin (13)
Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil
Society Hound's Howl, 2/12

6th place

Internship, by Conrad Smith (15)
Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society
of Montgomery County, MD
The Rockhouser, 10/12

Written Features

Honorable Mention

Finding Oil and Gas:
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
by Scott Germain
Richmond Gem & Mineral
The Collecting Bag, 7/12

Internet Resources

by Lorraine Johnston
Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore
Gem Cutters News, 2/12

On the Mountaintop: A First Visit to
Wildacres, by Alice Cherbonnier
Baltimore Mineral Society
The Conglomerate, 5/12

Mineral Identification Using the
Raman Spectrometer at James
Madison Univ., by David Hennessey
Mineralogical Society of the District
of Columbia, Mineral Minutes, 2/12

Adult Poetry

2nd place

I Ain't Nuthin But A Rockhound
by Sheryl E. Sims
Mineral Society of the District of
Columbia, Mineral Minutes, 3/12

6th place

The Softer Side, by Jim Stedman
Maryland Geological Society
The Rostrum, 7/12

8th place

Our 24th Seed
by Barbara Fenstermacher
Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
Hound's Howl, 9/12

New Editors

3rd place

Mineral Minutes, October, 2012
Sheryl Sims, Editor
Mineralogical Society of the District
of Columbia, Washington, DC

Large Bulletins

5th place

The Rockhounder, May, 2012
Wendell Mohr, Editor
Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of
Montgomery County, MD,
Gaithersburg, MD

9th place

Chippers' Chatter, December, 2012
Carolyn Weinberger, Editor

Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Baltimore, MD

10th place

Gem Cutters News, January, 2012
Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

Special Publications

2nd place

Rocks, Minerals and Fossils of Penn-
sylvania
by Beverly Eisenacher
Central Pennsylvania Rock &
Mineral Club
Harrisburg, PA (EFMLS)

3rd place

EFMLS Annual Meeting
by Sheryl Sims,
Mineralogical Society of the
District of Columbia, Washington,
DC

Endowment Fund Drawing

Yabba, Dabba, Doo...Eastern
members not only purchased the
most tickets, but earned the most
prizes which went to:

- Pat Barker
- Mary Bateman
- KC Foster
- Tom Gangi
- Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore
- Jim Hird
- Val Johnson
- Keith Kaneda
- Marie Stackhouse

All American Club

there were no EFMLS entries this
year! Why not?

The next AFMS Convention will be
July 9 - 13 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
Details will be available in February
or March.

The next EFMLS Convention is scheduled for March 29 – 30 in Plymouth Meeting, PA with the EFMLS annual meeting held on Friday, March 28. Details should be available beginning next month. Do plan on having your club represented and do plan on entering at least one of the contests - Bulletin Editor's and/or All American. The feedback you'll receive from the judges will be most beneficial to you and your club.



Rockhound Tools of the Trade

DID YOU KNOW? Our hardworking treasurer, Rebecca Siegal, presented her first paper at the State Archaeology Conference on October 24.

Way to go, Rebecca! We are proud of you!



(Photo Credit: Ann Cameron Siegal, writer/photographer)

ROCKING A CYCLE OF LIFE

By Sheryl E. Sims



Who am I in the cycle of my life? I am Igneous. Alicia Keys may be that girl that's on fire, but I am "ignis," and my Latin name means that I was formed of fire, hot and burning.

I was formed through a transformative process. Gradually, I cool myself over time. Ages pass during my life's cycle. Solidifying over time my mass increases. My magna, so magnificent, becomes burning layers of lava.

I may be hot, but my form is present and ever-changing. It changes with my dark, obsidian mood. Sometimes I appear crystallized; other times not. I rock unadorned. I'm vesicular, pegmatitic, spherulitic and fragmental in texture.

Deep below the surface I'm intrusive and plutonic. With a slow rise to the surface, I'm extrusive. My attributes become volcanic; yet, still I rock. I am Igneous.

My marvelous magma is out of this world!
Made up from preexisting rocks, I
sometimes melt partially away, exposing
myself in the process. Fluid fire, harrowing
heat, what will I be when next we meet?

I am what I am, affected by temperature, I
soar. Affected by pressure I morph into
myself, sometimes, changing my disposition
and composition completely. Why?
Because I can. I am Igneous.

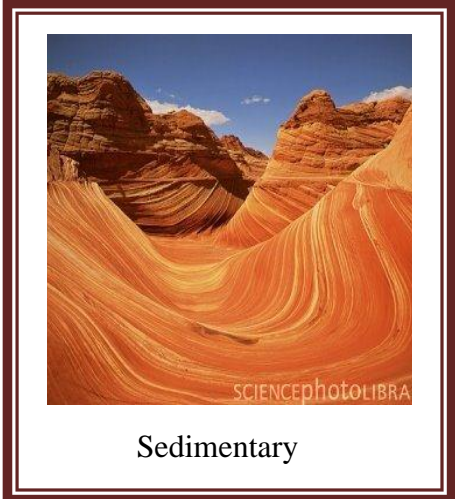
You think you know me, don't you? There
are over 700 types of me. I hide, waiting to
be discovered—waiting in my molten,
liquid, mineral form—sponge-like at times.
A river of fire water running free. Really,

Ever changing, I cloak myself in obsidian cases of red, brown, snowflakes and rainbow colors.
Smooth as glass and in a class of my own. I am Igneous, and I rock.

who can stop me? I wait, warming in the
earth's crust. Aphanitic, I'm hard and
dense. Cooling slowly, I wait, lying just
beneath the surface. What's a thousand
years? I wait for the time when I am forced
to show myself, revealing myself,
crystallized, cracks and all.

I am massive and I am small. Within my
being, I have it all. I am Igneous. See my
plutons? They are exposed for you to see
me better. If you'd rather, call them
batholiths or if it's easier, Mount of Sierra
Nevada.

Cooling quickly, my hot, fiery, lava spills
generously. I warm the earth and blanket it
in colors of the sun. Although many
volcanoes try, few can hold me. Cooling
slowly, when I surface, I'm granite, not to
be taken for granted.



Sedimentary

So-so sedimentary, I am like painted desert sand, layers upon layers of sediment ever forming, and thus compacting and cementing me into who I am.

I am sedimentary, fragmented by the remains of the day. Fragmented, perhaps, by plants and animals that stay and decay. My very being comes from both water and air coming into to play.

Like a scene from wuthering heights I am broken. Exposing myself near the earth's surface like a token, my core affected in place, transporting nothing, never molten.

There are two sides to me. Weathered mechanically and chemically, I am reduced to mere pieces of myself. Composed of all that is me, I remain unchanged for I am sedimentary.

Mechanically, I'm hit. Whether by frost wedges or abrasive encounters; plants and animals may wear me down. Exfoliating me and peeling away my essence I remain sediment.

Chemically, I'm it. With rocks decomposing around me vapors of water released and reformed. Who am I? Hydrolysis? Dissolution? Oxidation? All cause me to react.

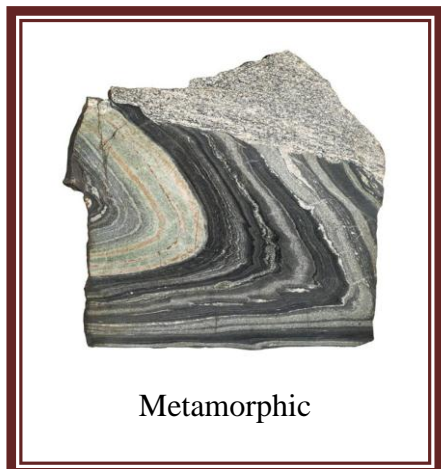
How acid rain upon me grows; and, carbon dioxide within me blows! Dissolute, I am broken, changing to reddish-brown. I crumble as if in need of calcium, I am but a crumbling rock, carried away by erosion.

My load is a heavy one, streaming through my life; leaving behind my silty, clay, remains, which rests and settles slowly to the streambed for that is best.

For I may be called clastic, chemical or even organic. Yet, though formed by pieces of other rocks; affected by weathering and erosion, I am always sediment.

As such, I am never out of sorts, though I may do well or poorly. Or, missed most sorely, I am what I am, coarse or finely regaled. Therefore, you can call me conglomerate, sandstone and shale. For these are just a few of the names by which I hale. Rock salt or Halite, Limestone or coal, you will find me there; from recent years if you like, or from ages of sediment of old.

You will know me by my stratification, fossils, geodes, and while. My prints are remarkable; they are formed by winds, waves, over miles. Still, mud cracks me up, and fills me until and I become fossilized.



Metamorphic

Many may wonder, isn't it time for a change? To morph into something or to change back again? For I derive from a parent rock, existing just for me. I undergo chemical and structure changes, you see. And, you wouldn't believe, what a relief it can be—to feel heat and pressure texturizing my inner most being.

Changing my internal structure, my weight, and still more. Mountains deformed create such beauty to form that is me. Both local and regional, it's all metamorphism, you see? Aligning in layers, my foliation can be great depending on the degree. Of regional metamorphism, heat, pressure, fluids, and gasses, so free, determined by the amount of extreme metamorphism that I choose to be.

Contact metamorphism displays hot magma and can really move. Deformational Metamorphism is caused by stress, friction, yet grooves. Usually, near faults, but none of my own, based on a parent rock that's right in my zone.

To be foliated or not to be—that really is the question to ask. Whether to be quartzite, slate, marble, or even schist, at long last. I may be like sugar, yet not so sweet, but quite gritty alas!

I may be dissolute like an acid with a sizzling fizz to my touch. Or, largely like calcite, colorful, and crystalline, as such. Still, maybe just limestone, if that's not revealing too much.

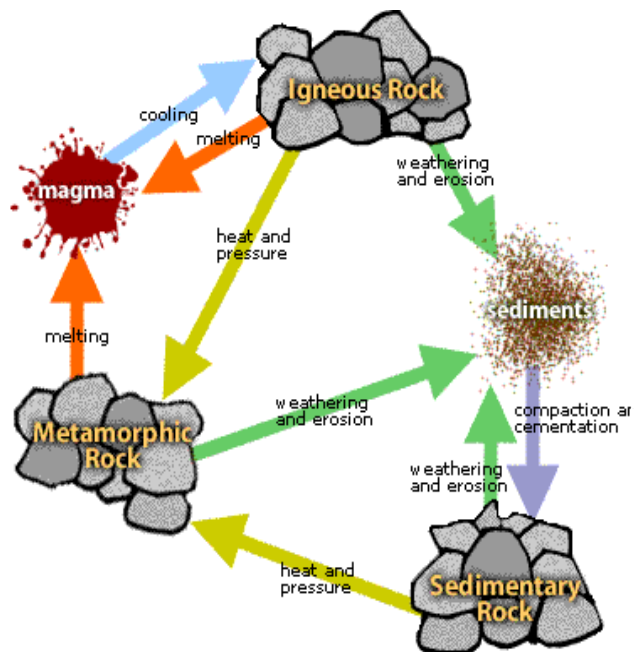
For I am metamorphic—and with me—change is oh-so-good. I will become whatever it is, that I, for a time, think that I should. As for the pressure, well, I'm not alarmed. In fact, I've grown to like it, so please, pile it on!

Photo Credit:

<http://library.thinkquest.org/05aug/00461/images/igneous.jpg>

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/images/restlessearch-metamorphicrock.jpg>

<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/sedimentary+rocks.jpg>



[This excellent article caught the eye of club member, Tom Tucker, who asked that we include it in our bulletin. It appears courtesy of The Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club, July-August 2013, Vol. 3, Issue 4. Permission granted by Ken Zahn.]

Williamsite—story by Ken Zahn

• Unusual Mineral: Gem-Quality Serpentinite/Antigorite, var. Williamsite, from MD/PA State Line Chromite Mine (Lowe's Pit).
Approx. Chemical Formula: $(\text{Mg}_2\text{Fe}+2)\text{}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$

Dr. Kenneth Zahn, Colonel, U.S. Army, (Retired). I am a member of the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club of Bozeman, Montana. Was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1980 and retired from there in 1985 as a Colonel in the Army. Belonged to a number of Clubs in the area at that time (Gem Cutter's Guild, etc.)

A bit of personal history on my own love affair with williamsite:

As a friend of the landowner during the mid-1980's, I collected pieces of the translucent emerald-green williamsite at the Line Pit property just inside the Maryland side of the MD/PA state line -- (Isaac Tyson, Jr's primary chromite mine in the mid-1800s, though first mined by Lowe before 1838 on the Pennsylvania side of the border). Lowe's Pit is apparently connected to the Line Pit shaft 60 feet away (at a depth of 92 feet) by a southeasterly trending inclined shaft. The massive chromite podiform ore-body was said to have been sheathed in a thin shell of the williamsite, which then graded into the common serpentine host rock around the ore body.

I had seen my first fingernail-sized piece of beautiful green williamsite imbedded in fresh asphalt paving in a new parking lot on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, as I stepped out of my car on a torrid day in the summer of 1981. After prying the tiny piece out with a key (the asphalt was warm and soft), I asked around over several months and was told that it was a prized local Maryland material -- williamsite -- probably from crushed serpentine rock from Cedar Hill quarry. I was hooked! Soon I had purchased copies of the more prominent references to chromite deposits in Maryland and Pennsylvania and decided to search for the Line Pit deposit, as many of the mineral clubs in the MD/PA had collected there in the '50s - '70s. The day I first visited in winter 1981, I did spot a nice piece under a half-inch of ice on the entrance path. The wetted piece I chipped from the iced-over puddle was beautiful emerald green and has been in my display case ever since. I was also met from behind by the shotgun of the landowner who had seen my car parked just off the road nearby and came to find me. As there were no "No Trespassing" signs posted in the brushy thicket around the path area at that time, the owner gave me a reprieve and I was careful to seek permission during the following 4 years of collecting trips. The material was hard to find as almost all the mine dump had been hauled off for road ballast -- apparently in the '50s or a bit later -- and grasses, trees, briars, and poison ivy had long-since taken over. The area is no longer accessible.

By almost unbelievable coincidence, besides finding the correct mine on that first trip, and surviving a shotgun challenge as I picked up my first piece of williamsite, I also purchased a

Baltimore-published 1839 copy of "Josephus" at a flea market in the area on the way home late that afternoon; inside the cover was an inscription presenting the copy to Jesse Tyson, then age 18, from his father Isaac Tyson, Jr., in "Cold Stream," MD (NE Baltimore) in 1844. I had found the mine, found nice williamsite, gained collecting permission, and found the famous owner's (Isaac Tyson Jr.'s) 1844 gift copy of Josephus to his son Jesse -- all on one wintry-afternoon's exploration trip.

One of my best smaller "show-and-tell" williamsite pieces was in my pocket when I attended the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in the early '90s. It passed across the counter to the hand of an Asian mineral dealer, who soon passed it to a carver in Taiwan, who then passed it back to me in a simple padded mailer envelope 2 months later, with a bill for \$40 for having carved it. That carved piece (5 x 4 x 3 cm) is one of my most-treasured mineral specimens. The translucency and color are stunning, and the identification of the piece as serpentinite/antigorite, var. williamsite, fools almost everyone. There is no fibrous nature or "undercutting" with this piece (and most of my other pieces), as is common with more-typical antigorite samples from other chromite deposits in the State Line area.

You can imagine my total shock and disdain when I learned years later that someone had managed to bamboozle the Maryland legislature into changing the experts'-consensus designation of "Maryland's gemstone" from the beautiful and unique williamsite to a drab river rock that looks more like a non-descript jasper. What a tragedy, as this photo of what I consider to be Maryland's TRUE gemstone -- williamsite -- clearly shows.



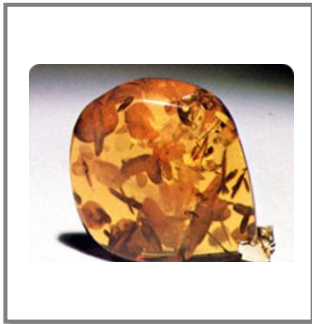
Special thanks to everyone who was kind enough to bring refreshments to our last meeting! We appreciate your time and generosity.



MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR THE MSDC HOLIDAY PARTY!

LINK-IN: News about Lake Natron <http://www.nbcnews.com/science/bird-mummies-natron-lakes-toxic-waters-petrify-animals-fall-8C11322626>.

(Robert Clemenzi)



(Courtesy of The Stamford Mineralogical Society - The Vug - August-2013, p.9)

Minerals on stamps: websites

"We have created a website on Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Clocks, Coins, Gold and Silver stamps. There are over 15,000 items with write up and other details. We request all GMJSU members to check our website and help us with any corrections as well as with your suggestions. Your response will be highly appreciated. Our website link are as follows: <http://drshahstamps.com> and <http://stampsongemsandjewelry.com>
Prof. Odino Grubesi, Our member in Rome, Italy, has created four websites in relation to our collecting interests. Visit them, they are very well [done. www.Geostamps.eu](http://www.Geostamps.eu), www.goldstamps.eu, www.diamondstamps.eu, www.mineralstamps.eu.

(Photo: <http://www.mineralstamps.eu/Amber1.htm>)

2013 Officers and Board Members



(left to right: Steve Johnson, Rick Reiber, Patricia Flavin, Rebecca Siegal, Dave Hennessey, Dave Nanney, Andy Thompson, & Sheryl Sims)
(photos provided by B. Thompson, A. Cameron Siegal, & S. Sims)

Officers & Board Members Contact Information

President: Steve Johnson - StevikJ@gmail.com; **Vice President:** Rick Reiber - Mathfun34@yahoo.com
Secretary: Patricia Flavin - pattiflavin@gmail.com; **Treasurer:** Rebecca Siegal - dcmineralclub@gmail.com
Directors: Dave Hennessey - dhennessey@spa.com; Dave Nanney - DNanney@cox.net;
Andy Thompson - thompson01@starpower.net; **Editor:** Sheryl Sims - sesims4@cox.net

Thank You to all who donated door prizes last year, provided refreshments, took photos, brought guests, shared mineral news, and made our club a great one by attending our meetings!

Thank You for your wonderful articles and photos! Your contributions make our club bulletin a great read. Please continue to support our club bulletin by sending me your mineral-related news, articles, photos and/or links. The *Mineral Minutes* newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. You may email your submissions to me at <sesims4 at cox.net>. Again, thank you! (Note: The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.)

A Special THANK YOU to Andy Thompson for proofreading the *Mineral Minutes*!

Treasurer's Note:

Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal



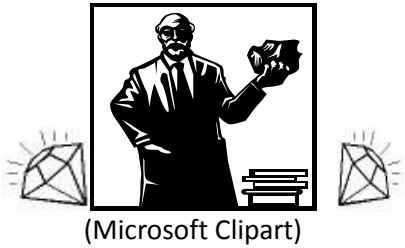
2014 Dues Due in January
\$20 for single memberships. \$25 for family memberships. Why not invite your friends and family to join MSDC?

Please send all treasurer-related emails to:
dcmineralclub@gmail.com

MORE REFRESHMENTS, PLEASE! If you are able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings, please do so. **We are still looking for a volunteer or two to coordinate refreshments for our meetings.** Please let Steve Johnson or a board member know if you can assist.

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! Guests are always welcome to attend MSDC meetings. Please continue to invite your friends!

IN MEMORIAL: For those who may have known the Dunnings, we were recently notified of the passing of Robert Dunning (12/1/12) and Terry Dunning (4/5/13).



Speaker Flash Back

- January 2013: Michael A. Wise, Ph. D, geologist in the Division of Mineralogy, for The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, gave a very interesting presentation on cathodoluminescence.
- February 2013: Cathleen Brown, Museum Specialist Rocks and Ores Division, for The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, addressed MSDC members on the topic of Pegmatites: What they are and where to find them.
- March 2013: Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.
- April 2013: Robert Simonoff – “Mineral Photography”
- May 2013: Casper Voogt – “Mineral Trip to Morocco”
- June 2013: Michael J. Pabst – “Colorful Rare Earth Minerals”
- July-August 2013: No meetings held.
- September 2013: Erich Junger – Forensic Geology

December 2013

S.C.R.I.B.E. – Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors – is not just for editors! Webmasters, authors, and former editors may also join. Please visit the S.C.R.I.B.E website for more information: <<http://scribe.rbnet.net>>

- October 2013: Meeting cancelled due government shutdown.
- November 2013: Patricia Flavin – Fossil Hunting along the cliffs of the Chesapeake Bay
- December 2013 MSDC Holiday Party

**Upcoming Events
NEWS FROM OUR EFMLS WEBSITE:**

If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed in the calendar, please contact me at lapidry@aol.com.

GMU Show - 23-24 November 2013: Fairfax, Virginia. 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Organized by: Northern Virginia Mineral Club. The HUB Ballroom - George Mason University. 4400 University Drive Fairfax VA – Parking Lot A

34th ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
SALEM CIVIC CENTER. 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153. Nov 29, 2013, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Description: Admission \$4.50, good for all 3 days. Children under 16 admitted FREE!
NOVEMBER 29, 30 AND DECEMBER 1ST

MINERAL MINUTES

March 2014

22-23: Sayre, PA - Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show will be held on March 22 (9-5) and March 23 (10-4). Held in the Athens Twp. Vol. Fire Hall, Sayre, PA Contact 570-928-9238 uvbob@epix.net

CHECK US OUT ON FACE BOOK!

Please help us keep friends and members interested and informed. Search for, or 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.)

COMING UP!

Elections!

(Interested in serving as an officer? Please contact Club President, Steve Johnson.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

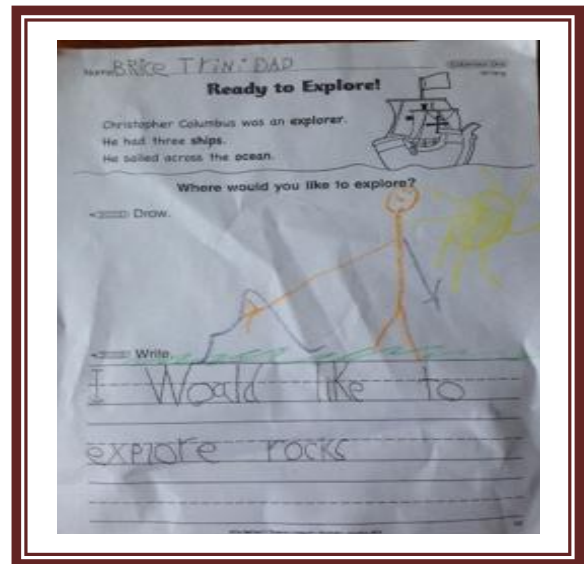


Thank you for your mineral donations. They will be used as door prizes.




The ALAA table at the AFMS show.
(Courtesy of AFMS News, November 2013, p.4.)

While at school, budding rockhound, Brice Trinidad, was asked the question, "Where would you like to explore?" to which he responded, that he "would like to explore rocks!" Good answer, Brice!



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

 **22nd Annual
GEM, MINERAL
AND FOSSIL SHOW**

Presented by the Northern Virginia Club, Inc. www.novamineralclub.org
Sponsored by the Dept. of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at GMU

Date: November 23 & 24, 2013
Place: The Hub Ballroom (Student Union II Building)
George Mason University Campus
Braddock Rd. & Route 123, Fairfax, VA
Hours: Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
Admission: Adults: \$5, Seniors & Teens (13-17): \$3
Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform,
and GMU Students w/valid ID are FREE

\$1 OFF
1 Adult admission
with this card

Demonstrations, Exhibits, and Door Prizes. Mini-mines for children to dig in and get free fossils and minerals.
Over 20 Dealers with Fossils, Minerals, Crystals and Gems for sale.

Use Parking lot A, enter Lot A from Nottoway River Lane.
Look for our Courtesy Shuttle to Mineral Show

MEET, GREET, & EAT!



Join MSDC club members for dinner at Pier 7 at 6:00 p.m. before each meeting.

FEDERATION NEWS
NEW AFMS Officers for 2013-14



2013-2014 AFMS Officers: Doug True, 4th Reg. VP; Pat LaRue, Treasurer; J.C. Moore, 3rd Reg. VP; Anne Cook, Secretary; Matt Charsky, 1st Reg. VP; Ann Monroe, 5th Reg. VP; Marion Roberts, President-elect; Richard Jaeger, President. Camera shy: Ann James, 2nd Reg. VP. (Photo Courtesy of AFMS Newsletter – November, 2013, p.4.)

President

Richard Jaeger
rjgrsci@aol.com

President-Elect

Marion Roberts
<mvroberts@bigvalley.net>

1st Vice President

Matt Charsky
<matt2430@comcast.net>

2nd Vice President

Ann James
amariann113@yahoo.com

3rd Vice President

J.C. Moore
<jcmoore3rd@gmail.com>

4th Vice President

Doug True
<dtruefossils12@yahoo.com>

5th Vice President

Ann Monroe
<anmonroe@windstream.net>

Secretary

Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

Treasurer

Pat LaRue
<bplarue@earthlink.net>



AFMS Past Presidents: Don Monroe (2013), Lauren Williams (2012), Ron Carman (2003), Steve Weinberger (2002), Dee Holland (1998), Shirley Leeson (2008), Ed Romack (1992), Emerson Tucker (2010). Camera shy: Bob Carlson (2007). (Photo Courtesy of AFMS Newsletter – November, 2013, p.4.).

NEW EFMLS Officers for 2013 – 2014

President – Hazel Remaley, northridge5@verizon.net

1st VP - Merrill Dickinson, medsearchnorth@comcast.net

2nd VP – Michael Kessler, Quartz7228@aol.com

Secretary, Gerry Cox, gerryannec@verizon.net

***Treasurer, Jean Charsky, jean2430@comcast.net**

Asst. Treasurer, Michael Patterson, Michael.Patterson@pgparks.com

Editor, Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, cscrystals2@gmail.com

***A special congratulations to Jean Charsky, Region IV VP and wife of Matt Charsky, Chair, EFMLS Convention Advisory & EFMLS Show Coordinator, on her new position as treasurer! Thank you Matt & Jean for all of your hard work on behalf of our club and the Eastern Federation of the Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies.**



Safety Matters – An Introduction

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair (Courtesy of AFMS News, November 2013, p. 4)

Tradition calls for a short introduction and biography for a new committee chairperson. So, hello, my name is Ellery (insert thoughtful pause). Well, that is about as short as I can make it and probably more than some folks care or want to know!

On second thought, I Perhaps I should also mention that I have not graduated from any college rockhound safety curriculum. I don't even know of any class such as Rockhound Safety 101. Colleges offer just about everything from Hula Hoop to Rocket Science - but not rockhound safety - that I know-of anyway. I should say in my defense that I have not made every safety mistake imaginable, but I'm well on my way. In fact, some mistakes I've made were so good, I've made them a second time.

And, now to the discussion of this Safety Matters article – most of us know the right thing to do when it comes to safety. We do however, live in a busy world. In all that business, sometimes safety takes a back seat to other matters. How many times have you heard after an accident, a refrain uttered (expletives deleted) similar to one of the following:

1. But I WAS taking it easy...
 2. I was only going to try this to see if it worked!
 3. We were in a hurry and it looked so easy to...
 4. Gee, it didn't appear to be that much of a slope.
 5. I know all about those things! I didn't need to read the directions.
 6. It was just like all the others, what could go wrong?
- and my own personal favorite:
7. I saw this demonstrated once ...

Might one get the jist of an idea or perhaps a gut feeling about what may have gone astray in each of those instances?

How do we as responsible field trip leaders, safety chairs, show chairs, club officers, and members in general encourage! cajole! support, guide, suggest and demonstrate to folks the right thing to do? The safe thing to do? The responsible thing to do? The cautious thing to do? I sure wish I had answers to those questions. About the only things I'll suggest here are to try leading by example and to try offering a word of caution when one sees an unsafe act about to be executed.

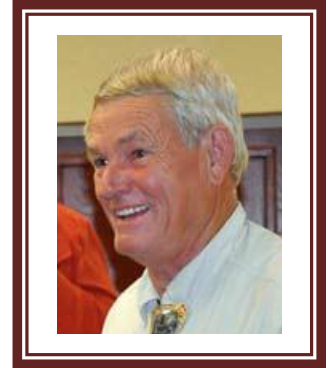
Over the coming months we will attempt to verbally illustrate (verbilate??) some ideas and thoughts about safety matters from my own 1/2 vast background with all manner of safety matters. Gemologists study their 3 C's of clarity, color and cut. In Safety Matter's articles to follow we will talk about rockhound safety's 4 C's of Confusions; Contusions! Calamities!, and Concussions. Not to be left out, we will also talk about some other letters of the alphabet as well.

Hopefully we will get to know one another not thru a mere biography but instead through a series of articles, discussions, stories, ideas, bloviations and rants offered for your consideration, contemplation, and concern. Oh and I should forewarn you, sometimes I repeat myself -- especially when I say something really profound (which does not happen all that often, but brace yourself just in case). Please be safe during this upcoming season of holidays. As it says at the start of this article -- your safety matters.

Multi-Federation Field Trip – Make Plans to Attend NOW! by Doug True, Field Trip Chair

(Photo Courtesy of AFMS Newsletter – November, 2013, p.12.).

The town of Terry, Montana may be small, but they are planning on rolling out the red carpet for us as they host the AFMS 2014 Multi-Federation field trip gathering. The dates are July 31 - August 4, 2014, so mark your calendars and get ready to register!



Terry is right in the middle of some of the best Montana rock hounding areas. We'll have numerous trips to the Gravel Bars on the Yellowstone River; productive areas that I've been hunting on annually for 40+ years. Many are accessed only through private property, but permissions have been granted. We'll be hunting for Montana agates, Jasper, Petrified Wood, fossil coral, stromatolites, and numerous other "oddities".

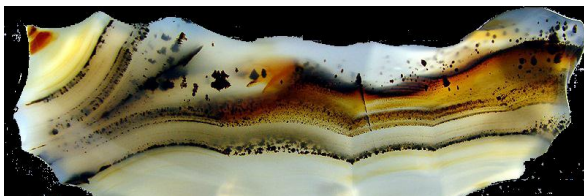
We'll have numerous trips into Montana fossil country to the Pierre and Bear Paw formation areas, and we'll collect ammonites, baculites, scaphites, nautiloids and many other shells (70-95 million years old) in the ancient sea bed areas. We are also working on trips to several areas where we can collect dinosaur fossils from the Hell Creek Formation. More information will be forthcoming as plans are solidified.

In addition, we'll have an opportunity to take a guided tour through the Eastern Montana Badlands - a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Start planning your collecting vacation now. Kids are welcome!!!! What could be better than four days in Eastern Montana with a chance of collecting wonderful material.

But wait, there's more....The town of Terry is allowing us to use their 2 block city park for dry camping and other activities. We'll have pot luck dinners, a barbecue and much, much more.

For more information contact Doug True, Fieldtrip Chair, (406) 670-0506, or email dtruefossils12@yahoo.com



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 YOUR DUES PROMPTLY.

Pay at next 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?

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, pattiflavin@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rebecca Siegal, dcmineralclub@gmail.com, (mail: c/o MSDC, P.O. Box 9957, Alexandria, VA 22304)

Directors: Dave Nanney, Dave Hennessey, and Andy Thompson, thompson01@starpower.net

Editor: Sheryl Sims, sesims4@cox.net

Co-Web Master: Betty Thompson & Casper Voogt, http://mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org/

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 7:45 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



Mineralogical Society of DC
P.O. Box 9957
Alexandria, VA 22304
U.S.A.

Time Sensitive Dated Material
First-Class Mail

December 2013