

# 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.

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October 2012



### FLUORITE

*FLUORITE on Quartz:*  
Riemvasmaak, Kakamas  
District, Northern Cape  
Province, South Africa. Overall  
size 5.5 x 4 x 3 cm with crystal  
2.7 cm on edge.  
(Photo by Susan Fisher)

#### October 3, 2012 Presentation and Speaker – Susan Fisher: Fluorite - A Mineral for All Seasons

Fluorite is a popular mineral for collectors but it has also utilitarian side. We will explore the basic facts about fluorite, the contributions it has made to the development of industry and science, and then take a pictorial trip around the world looking at fluorites from some well-known and lesser known sites.

*I am a life-long amateur mineral collector. At about three years old, my first "collection" was a pocket full of rocks picked up from the driveway. When asked why I collect mineral crystals, I can only say that I appreciate the beauty and variety of the mineral world. While I like, and collect, many mineral species, fluorite holds a special fascination for me because of its many forms, colors and crystal symmetry. Susan Fisher*

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October 2012

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**THE PREZ SAYS...**

By Tom Tucker

**What Did You Do Last Summer?**

It was a quiet season for me as far as mineral collecting activities were concerned. I did make a single collecting trip - to the Stoutameyer Branch syenite locality, in Augusta County, Virginia, and also the near-by Buck Hill locality. I was joined by John Kress, a local micromounter, Bob Rothenberg (New York) and Robin Tibbit (from north of The Border). Stoutameyer Branch is

almost an ideal collecting locality. It's immediately adjacent to the road. The land owner has been very accommodating and unusual minerals are easy to find. The only possible down side is that the minerals are all micros and the most interesting ones are TINY micros. However, many are quite esthetic, and some are very rare. We're working on confirming that we have found the seventh world occurrence for one species, and I think the 19th occurrence for another. We still have a lot of collected material to look through and to have identified.

In July, I attended the Annual Convention of the National Speleological Society—the cave exploring group—near Lewisburg, West Virginia. Something like 1300 cavers gathered for the week, with a wide variety of activities. It all began on Sunday with the geology field trip—four busloads of cavers learning about the local geology and its relationship to caves. One stop was at the Acme Limestone Company quarry at Snowflake, West Virginia. This is a huge inactive quarry in the Mississippian age Greenbrier limestone, which is also the host to most of the caves in the region. Some beds of the limestone beds are very pure, and as a result have been quarried, and then mined

underground over a very large area. A nearby underground mine intersected a large cave system with over seven miles of passages, and had no natural entrance. In the quarry, we observed the oolitic nature of the limestone, and the only mineral that I observed was coarsely crystalline calcite in large chunks. However, it was not of collector interest.

Back at the convention, the technical sessions began on Monday and lasted all week. Some snippets from the numerous papers I heard included mention of euhedral quartz crystals in a very large cave system in Germany Valley, Pendleton County. The author suggested that they might indicate former hydro-thermal conditions that might have been a factor in the formation of the cave. I later discussed with the author the common similar crystals we collect in similar aged limestone near Front Royal and Strasburg and others areas in the Shenandoah Valley. I suppose the significance of the "Herkimer" type quartz crystals depends on your interpretation of "hydrothermal". I personally believe that the crystals are several geologic periods older than the cave, but who knows? That's what research is all about.

Another paper presented at the U.S. Exploration Session was entitled, "Caving inside a geode, Eddy County, New Mexico." It described a cave formed in the Castile formation—a stratigraphic unit composed largely of gypsum and anhydrite. The gypsum in the bedrock at the cave is very coarsely crystallized, and exhibits abundant large translucent selenite masses. Additionally, there are scattered large secondary gypsum crystals in the cave. I could see how the author felt like he was inside of a large "geode," but it really didn't look very spectacular.

The title of a paper presented in the Biology session caught my attention: "Siderophores, a Microbial Mechanism for Mining Minerals in Caves." Of course, it has nothing to do with any aspect of "minerals" as we appreciate them. It dealt with aspects of how bacteria produce special chemicals to acquire metabolic iron in very low-energy biological environments—as in large cave systems. I'm sure

that's not a very good "translation" of the biology I read in the paper abstract, but you get the point.

One of the "hi-lite" events of the week is always the Photo Salon on Thursday evening. Awards are given for the best pictures in a number of categories, and over 200 "slides" are presented. It was good to see a series of entries from a casual friend from Missouri, Roy Gold. I had once stayed with Roy at his home during a caver's organization business meeting, about 50 years ago. It's good to see someone from my generation still actively caving!

The picture below is one of Roy's entries in the salon, and is presented with his permission. Thank you, Roy! The picture is of aragonite crystal clusters, from, I assume, a cave in Missouri. Cavers are, of course, very protective of the locations of caves, especially when they contain beautiful secondary mineral deposits, in order to protect them from "collectors" like you and me. Enjoy them in place, but leave them for others to appreciate in the future.



Aragonite crystals in a cave in Missouri - a picture from the 2012 NSS Photo Salon. Photo taken by Roy Gold and used with his permission.

The Convention week was topped off on Friday evening at our Awards banquet, in a large steel building at the State Fair Grounds. The theme of the convention this year was something kooky related to the end of the world—according to the Mayan calendar, that is, this would be our LAST convention! And, immediately after dinner it came

pretty close to fulfilling that premonition. Around 7:30 the power went out, but being cavers many of us had lights for getting around in the dark. A storm was brewing to the west. Yes, the same one that the DC area later that evening - the "derecho." Apparently the power was out due to downed lines in Ohio and West Virginia. We weren't hit until about 8:15, and the storm took its toll. Can you imagine 1000 folks in a campground, with that kind of storm? Of course, the best places to camp were under the huge old oak trees at the top of the hill. Bad idea! The camping area ended up in a shambles, tents and tarps and everything else blown everywhere. Several of the trees came down, on at least four nice SUV's. I think three were totaled. Several people in the vehicles barely escaped with their lives. Amazingly, no one was injured. Maybe the end of the world was upon us!

I know we've heard how bad the storm was here around Washington and other areas along the Coast. I was impressed with the impact in sparsely populated Greenbrier County. Trees and power lines were down everywhere you went. Our meeting was over, and many folks left for home, either during the storm, or early Saturday morning. I was headed home too, but an old college friend was there, heading home to Illinois. He was low on gas, and, of course with no power, there were no open gas stations. So, Rich was stuck in Lewisburg. What to do? Saturday was a beautiful day, and I had plenty of fuel, so I took Rich on a grand tour of the caving region of the county. Of course, we got to see first-hand the impacts of the storm. Most impressive was the large dairy farm we encountered. How do you milk a large herd with no power for the modern milking-machines? How do you keep it cool until pick-up? But folks are resourceful, and prepared.

There was a tractor hitched to a generator, and they were making do. As an old big-city kid, I was impressed. Granted, there were probably fewer folks coming to town. They had problems of their own at home. However, everyone got along, worked together, and dealt with the aftermath as required. Traffic flowed much better. The stop lights were out, but everyone made the "four-way stop" concept work. Only one or two stores managed to

remain open. There was no gas, but you could pick up snacks and the like. There was no ice available for fifty miles or more. No restaurants. Store clerks actually totaled your bill with pencil and paper, and a flashlight. But folks all pulled together and got through the emergency.

I know that here, we had score cards on the news--how many customers were without power, after one day, two days, some a whole week! In Greenbrier County, there were reported to still be 1900 homes without power 12 days after the storm. It was an interesting experience, and I think I was most impressed with the civility, resourcefulness, and camaraderie among a lot of total strangers.

What about minerals and geology? Well, on our grand tour of the caving region, Rich and I visited the entrances of three of the largest cave systems in the country—Organ Cave (38 miles of known passage), Culverson Creek Cave, (just under 20 miles of passage), and Friars Hole Cave, with over 45 miles of mapped passages. Of course, we only got a few yards into each one. We did find a rural church which was building a new access road to their parking lot, and in the freshly exposed rock and rubble, we found a few slabs with decent calcite crystals, and lots of oolitic limestone.

I hope you had lots of summer adventures too, and acquired a lot of interesting new rocks and minerals.

**September Program Summary**

By Patricia Rehill

Speaker, Bob Simonoff: The Ste. Marie Aux Mines Mineral Show, Paris France.  
 Club member, Bob Simonoff, gave an excellent presentation regarding the special trip that his family took to celebrate his daughter, Jessica's, graduation from middle school. She is an outstanding young mineral collector and scholar. Jessica's work has been published and has received numerous awards for her educational contributions. Bob and Jessica had previously attended the show, and enjoyed it so much, that they wanted to return. Bob's presentation featured a description of the town, the history of the mineral show, and an extensive array of mineral photos. Visit <http://www.mineral-forum.com/message-board/viewtopic.php?t=2347> to view his slide presentation.



1.



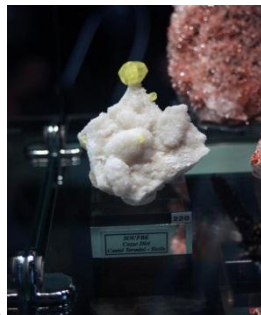
2.

- 1- pink fluorite from Chamonix
- 2- adamite from Mexico
- 3- fluorite from Asturias, Spain
- 4- sulphur from Sicily
- 5- realgar

(Photos by Bob Simonoff. Ste. Marie Aux Mines Mineral Show, Paris, France)



3.



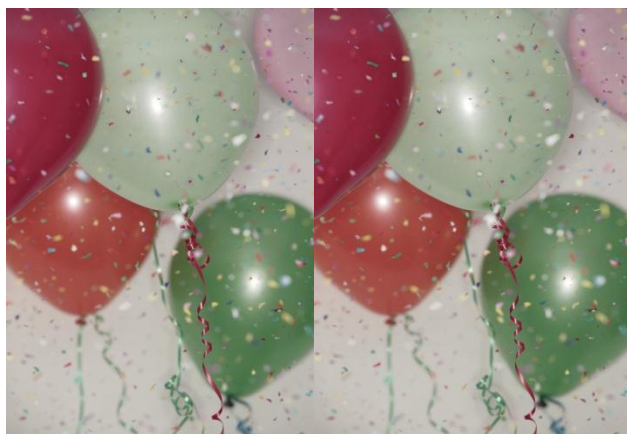
4.



5.



**“MSDC: 70 Years Young and Growing”**



**Mark Your Calendars: 1 Dec (Saturday) 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 1 Dec. 2012, a Saturday. We will meet at the Fishers house in Centreville, VA. This will allow us to get an earlier start to our celebration. We will be forming appropriate committees to share the chores for our gathering. So stay tuned.

This event highlights the perennial question: How does such an established organization continue to thrive and reinvent itself?

Fortunately we have lots of century-old U.S. corporations who have successfully addressed this question. Thomas Edison’s discoveries, from the light bulb to improving telegraphics, led to the creation of the Edison General Electric company in 1892. Today, GE leads in electronics, aerospace, energy, medical diagnostics, etc. A decade later in 1902, the 3M corporation invented sand paper that worked even when wet. Today, it continues to lead through innovations in the areas of health care, communications, industrial and office products, including Scotch tape and other adhesives.

Similarly, Henry Ford, a close friend of Edison, started his auto production company in 1903 and invented the conveyer belt which improved on the world’s first the assembly line invented by Mr. Olds, of Oldsmobile fame. Today, after the entire auto industry suffered a steep decline, Ford came roaring back with fuel efficient and

green hybrid vehicles and captured \$23 billion in profits in its most recent reporting year.

So, what is it that enables these long standing corporations to have such youthful vitality and continue to enjoy growth? Is there something mineral clubs can learn from these examples?

Many of today’s graduate schools offer management courses which promote the type of leadership competencies which promise corporate innovation and success. However, two centuries ago, a scientist was born who devoted his entire life to discovering how biological species successfully adapted. Here’s how he summarized what he learned.

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but rather the one most adaptable to change.” Charles Darwin, as paraphrased by Leon C. Meggison

At this point in our MSDC corporate history, are there any tips which we and other mineral clubs can borrow from the evolution of those organizations, whether biological or corporate? Some of the recurring suggestions have been that youthful companies need to:

- develop a clear and compelling corporate mission;
- listen to one’s environment to learn to adapt to the real needs;
- facilitate strong internal communications among members; and
- motivate members and clients to develop their talents and collaborate to meet needs.

Please keep such suggestions in mind as we think about our December holiday gathering and what future we want for MSDC. Let’s have a contest to come up with the best suggestions for keeping our club growing. What are two or three things that you want people to know about MSDC? How do you want them to learn about us? When we gather, we will share the best insights about how to thrive in the decades to come. By Thanksgiving, send your submissions to me: <thompson01 at erols dot com>. Mineral-related prizes will be awarded for the best suggestions as judged by an independent committee. Hopefully, this will tickle our collective wish bones.



## OKAY WITH OKENITE

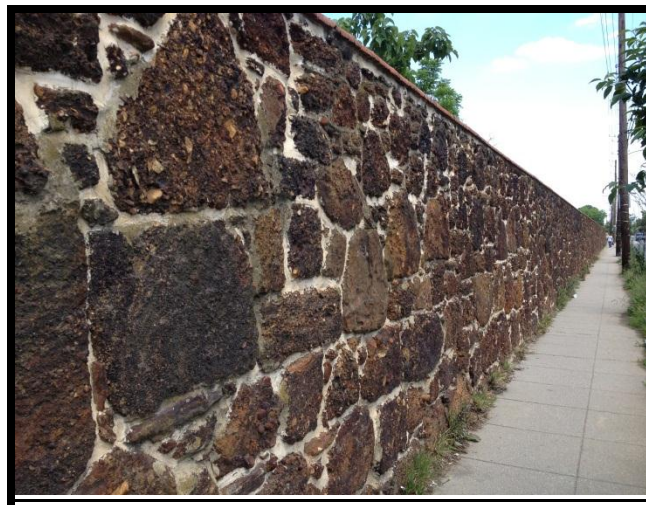
By Sheryl E. Sims

(Photo by S. Sims)

Okenite has always been one of my favorite minerals. When I saw my first okenite specimen, I thought that it was a ball of cotton! It looked just like a pom-pom. I was surprised to learn that it had from Poona, India! Not long after that, I saw another piece of okenite in a collection of basalt geodes belonging to a friend, and wanted to learn more about this interesting-looking mineral.

How did okenite get its name? Okenite was named after Lorenz Oken, a German naturalist (1779-1851. He discovered it in 1828, in Disko Island, Greenland.<sup>1</sup>

As a Class VIII silicate, okenite is often associated with zeolites, calcite, prehnite, quartz, and apophyllite.<sup>2</sup> It has very fragile crystals that are flat-leaf-shaped, fine, and fibrous. Masses of okenite can be found in Ireland; New Zealand; Chile; Greenland; Poona, India; the Czech Republic; and Montana.<sup>3</sup> It has a hardness of 4½-5; perfect cleavage; and it has a triclinic crystal system. okenite's composition is:  $\text{Ca}_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{23}9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .<sup>4</sup>



(Photo by Nathan MacElroy)

This rock wall is around St. Elizabeth's Hospital, located in southeast DC. It is pretty cool stone. Does anyone know anything about it? -- Nathan MacElroy



MSDC members and guests enjoy interacting with each other after the summer break.



<sup>1</sup> www.1911encyclopedia.org  
<sup>2</sup> *Smithsonian - Rock and Gem*. Ronald Louis Bonewitz. p. 268.  
<sup>3</sup> *Handbook of Rocks Minerals & Gemstones*. Walter Schumann. p. 92.  
<sup>4</sup> *Rock and Gem, Smithsonian*. Ronald Louis Bonewitz. p. 268.  
 (Photos by S. Sims)

**PERIODS OF EARTHLY DEVELOPMENT**

*By Sheryl E. Sims*



Photo courtesy of [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ginkgoites\\_huttoni\\_1.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ginkgoites_huttoni_1.jpg). *Ginkgoites huttonii*, Middle Jurassic, Yorkshire, UK. Leaves preserved as compressions. Specimen in Munich Palaeontological Museum, Germany. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant\\_fossil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_fossil)

Cenozoic (formation for modern continents/diversification of animals and plants).

Mesozoic (development of flowering plants and appearance/extinction of dinosaurs).

Paleozoic (marine invertebrates, primitive fishers/reptiles/land plants).

Precambrian (primitive forms of life) eras:

✚ *Cambrian* (warm seas, desert land areas, and the rise of almost all modern animals/plants).

✚ *Carboniferous* (swamp formation and

deposition of plant remains later hardened into coal);

✚ *Cretaceous* (appearance of flowering plants and the dis-appearance of dinosaurs and other forms of life);

✚ *Devonian* (appearance of forests and amphibians);

✚ *Jurassic* (the presence of dinosaurs and the earliest species of birds);

✚ *Ordovician* (appearance of primitive fishes);

✚ *Permian* (rise of conifers and diversification of reptiles);

✚ *Quaternary* (the period in which humans appeared on the scene);

✚ *Silurian* (land plants and invertebrate land animals);

✚ *Tertiary* (the period where modern flora, apes, and other large mammals appeared); and

✚ *Triassic* (appearance of earliest mammals and land life).

Eocene (mammals); Holocene (recent)  
Pleistocene (glacial); Pliocene (modern animals)  
Miocene (grasses/grazing animals); Oligocene (mammals/carnivores); Paleocene (placental mammals).

Source: *Webster's II – New College Dictionary, Third Edition, Houghton Mifflin*

**Upcoming Events & Presentations**

**MSDC November 7, Presentation by Johnny Johnsson:** Johnny Johnsson, geologist and mining historian, will tell the story of "Chromite in Maryland & Pennsylvania - A History." Maryland and Pennsylvania dominated the production of chromite during the 19th-Century, centered around Baltimore's Tyson family. Through slides, lecture, and discussion, we will consider the discovery and development of this important ore mineral of chromium and the history of the local chrome mines and manufacture of chromium compounds.

**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.

**MSDC Meeting Minutes – September 2012**

**Secretary, Patricia Rehill**

**Meeting Date:** September 5, 2012

**Meeting Place:** Cathy Kerby Room, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History

**Agenda:** Club President, Tom Tucker, recognized past presidents: Ed & Susan Fisher and Andy Thompson.

**Minutes Approved:** June Minutes were approved as posted in the June 2012 issue of the *Mineral Minutes*.

**Attendance:** people

**Visitors:** 4 guests were in attendance. Juliana “Juli” Davis, Nathan McElroy, his son, Cort, and Nathan’s brother, Peter.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rick Reiber was not present, however it was reported that many members have paid their dues. THANK YOU! The club’s checking account and CD continues to be strong.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Matt Charsky, American Federation Mineral Society, AFMS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, gave a short talk about the AFMS and the Eastern Federation Mineral and Lapidary Society EFMLS. The AFMS conference theme was agates, and was very informative.

Matt announced that the upcoming Annual EFMLS conference will be held in Harrisburg, PA, September 14-16, 2012. The theme will be crystals. The conference will include a field trip to collect Wavelite on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sheryl Sims mentioned that the AFMS needs our support in petitioning the creations a new “birth stone” postage stamp.

Ed Fisher made a motion for MSDC to contribute \$500 to the annual George Washington University Geology Department for an educational scholarship. The motion was unanimously approved. There was an additional motion and approval of \$750 for the annual Smithsonian scholarship.

**Geology in the News:** Volcanos erupted in Guatemala and Indonesia. Costa Rica recently sustained a 7.6 earthquake.

**Care and Condolences:** Well wishes to Jack Bush, George Loud, and Cynthia Payne.

**Refreshments:** Thanks to Susan & Ed Fisher, Betty & Andy Thompson, Leslie & Dave Nanney, and Sheryl Sims for bringing refreshments.



**Announcements:** **Change of location for annual holiday party.** This year's party will take place at the Fisher's Centerville home. Ed and Susan Fisher have graciously volunteered to host the annual party at their home, which is located at 14981 Gold Post Ct., Centerville, VA. **Mark your calendars!** The party will be on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>. The party will commence at 5:30 p.m. **A food sign-up list will be available at the October meeting.** Transportation will need to be provided for some members who do not drive. While attending our holiday party, we will have an opportunity to view the Fisher's outstanding "mineral museum"!

Tom Tucker has quarry signs for sale. If you'd like one of these unique signs, please contact him. Signs are \$20.

**Door Prize Winners:** Rebecca Siegal and Patricia Rehill. Congratulations!

**Refreshments:** Refreshments were provided by Susan and Ed Fisher, Betty and Andy Thompson, and Sheryl Sims. Please take a turn and remember to bring something in to share. Questions? Please contact Betty Thompson at <bdthompson01 at yahoo.com>.

**Adjournment:** The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.

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**Treasurer's Note: Treasurer, Rick Reiber**



(Photo by S. Sims)

**Dues Reminder: It's never too late** to pay your 2012 dues! \$20 for single member-ships. \$25 for family memberships. Why not invite your friends and family to join MSDC?

**Has Your Contact Information Changed?** Please provide Rick Reiber with your updated information.

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



(Photo by Cynthia Payne)

**WELCOME!** MSDC welcomes its new members. Thank you for joining us! Also, guests are always welcome to attend MSDC meetings. Please continue to invite your friends!

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*Quarries. Mines. Travel. Photography. Collecting. Studying. We want to hear from YOU! Please share your summer mineral-related photos and activities with us by submitting them to the editor at <sesims4@cox.com>.*

Region VI Rock Swap and Picnic

August 25, 2012

Gilbert Run Park, Charles County, MD

Hosted by Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club & Carl Miller, EFMLS VP



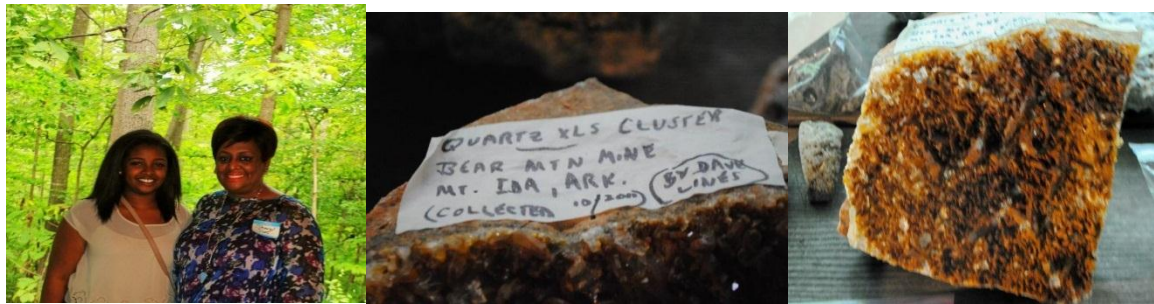
Harry & Tina League (SMRMC President of hosting club)

Erich Grundel & Sheryl Sims,



Dave Lines (SMRMC & Event Organizer)

Ti Meredith (NVMC Club)



Members of the SMRMC

Patti & Harry Hobbs, (Richmond Club)

(Photos by S. Sims)

**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.

**Linked-In**

Visit the below links and learn what’s happening in the mineral world!

- <http://geology.com/news/category/minerals.shtml>
- <http://albionhumannutrition.com/>
- <http://hexagonaldipyramidal.wordpress.com/2011/02/05/minerals-in-the-news-calcite-and-invisibility/>
- <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/rocknews.shtml>

**MSDC Fundraiser: Talk to Tom if you’d like to buy a sign! Check us out on Face Book!**



(Photo by S. Sims)

**Minerals in the News**

**Chinese mine says it discovers 2.37 billion tons of iron ore in northwest Namibia. See:**

*[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/chinese-mine-says-it-discovers-237-billion-tons-of-iron-ore-in-northwest-namibia/2012/08/28/31a099f2-f109-11e1-b74c-84ed55e0300b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/chinese-mine-says-it-discovers-237-billion-tons-of-iron-ore-in-northwest-namibia/2012/08/28/31a099f2-f109-11e1-b74c-84ed55e0300b_story.html)*

*Minor volcanic eruption of the Anak Krakatau volcano in Jakarta, Indonesia (August) (The Washington Post 9-4-12).*

*In Quito, Ecuador, over 100 families had to be evacuated due to eruptions at the Tungurahua volcano (August). (The Washington Post 9-4-12).*

**MSDC IS NOW ON FACE BOOK!**

Steve Johnson created a Face Book page for our club. 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.) Check it out!



**MSDC Board Members**



(photo by Susan Fisher)

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

**EFMLS OFFICERS**

R. J. Harris, President, <roqfreq at rjharris.com>; Cheryl Neary, 1st Vice President, <ciervo.neary at gmail.com>  
Hazel Remaley, 2nd Vice President, <northridge5 at verizon.net>; Gerry Cox, Secretary, <gerryannec at verizon.net>  
Lou Budell, Treasurer, <labudell at windstream.net>; Michael Patterson, Assistant Treasurer, <Michael.Patterson at  
pgparks.com> Carolyn Weinberger, Editor, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302, 410-833-7926, <cscystals2 at gmail.net>  
For more information about the *Eastern Federation Mineral & Lapidary Society*, visit: <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)>

**AFMS NEWS**

**Ann Cook** was awarded the *2012 AFMS Recognition Award* for her many years of contributions and long-time involvement with AFMS, <secretary@amfed.org>.

**Barbara Sky** won a trophy for her pyrite display. All specimens in her display were under one inch in size, which the thumb nail category, <bskysky@aol.com>.

**Bob Davidson** ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for the AFMS Web Site Contest (SMRMC). EFMLS has 17 entries! <Bobdavidson2@comcast.net>

**Joe Murter** was named one of the *AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year* for the Eastern Federation (by the NVMC).

**Sheryl Sims** won a silver medal in the *AFMS All American Club Award* – “Year Book” competition (NVMC) and an award for an article.

**Wendell Mohr** (AFMS Commemorative Stamps Committee Chair) is urging member to continue to campaign for birthstone stamps by signing a petition or by writing letters. Forms may be found on the AFMS website <wmohr@erols.com>.

**AFMS Officers for 2012-13**

President - Don Monroe (SFMS) President-elect - Richard Jaeger (RMFMS)

1st Regional Vice President – Marion Roberts (CFMS)

**2nd Regional Vice President – Matt Charsky (EFMLS) (Congratulations once again, to Matt!)**

3rd Regional Vice President – Ann James (SCFMS)

4th Regional Vice President – Sandy Fuller (MWF)

5th Regional Vice President – Doug True (NFMS) Treasurer – Pat LaRue (2 year term)

The position of Secretary was not up for election this year. Anne Cook will complete the 2nd year of her 2 year term.

**Your Help Is Needed!**

- Are you able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings? (Contact Betty Thompson)
- Can you help plan our holiday party? (Contact Tom Tucker)
- Are you willing to take a turn serving as a club officer? (Contact Dave Nanney and Dave Hennessey)
- 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.





**Sheryl Sims, Editor** – Do you have news, links, photos, or articles to share? Please send them my way!

The *Mineral Minutes* newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. Please email your submissions to me at <sesims4 at cox.net>. Thank you!



VP, Andy Thompson introduces speaker, Bob Simonoff. AFMS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Matt Charsky, explains the roll of EFMLS & AFMS.

**MSDC RAFFLE!**



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

*(photos by S. Sims)*

**We have your winning ticket in the bag!**

**THE ABCD's OF HELPING MSDC THRIVE**

- A**lways remember to invite a guest to our meetings.
- B**e sure to keep an eye out for possible speakers.
- C**ontribute to the life of the club by volunteering.
- D**on't hesitate to offer suggestions.

**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**

President: Tom Tucker, threedogtom@earthlink.net

Vice President & Program Chair: Andy Thompson, thompson01@starpower.net

Secretary: Patricia Rehill, patriciarehill@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rick Reiber, Mathfun34@yahoo.com, (mail: c/o MSDC, P.O. Box 9957, Alexandria, VA 22304)

Director: Cynthia Payne

Director: Dave Nanney

Director: Dave Hennessey

Editor: Sheryl Sims, sesims4@cox.net

Co-Web Master: Casper Voogt & Betty Thompson, www.mineralsocietyofDC.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, 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.**

# ***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.

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