

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.

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November 2014

MSDC PRESENTATION– November 5, 2014



“Objectivity and Interpretation: Technical Study of Albrecht Dürer’s *Madonna and Child, Lot and his Daughters*.” (Co-authors on the project and the resulting publication are John Delaney, Lisha Glinsman, John Hand and Catherine Metzger.)

Melanie Gifford’s research considers the artistic decision-making process and focuses on Dutch and Flemish painters. Melanie has worked at the National Gallery of Art as Research Conservator for Painting Technology in the Scientific Research Department since 1992, after 15 years as a painting conservator at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

Her PhD in art history used technical study to consider the development of naturalistic Dutch landscape paintings by artists working at the start of the 17th century in light of their innovative painting practices. Recent publications include technical studies of individual paintings by Van Eyck and Dürer as well as exhibition catalogue essays on the painting techniques

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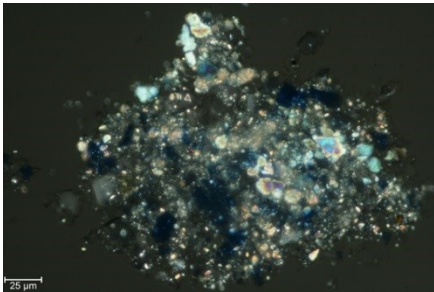
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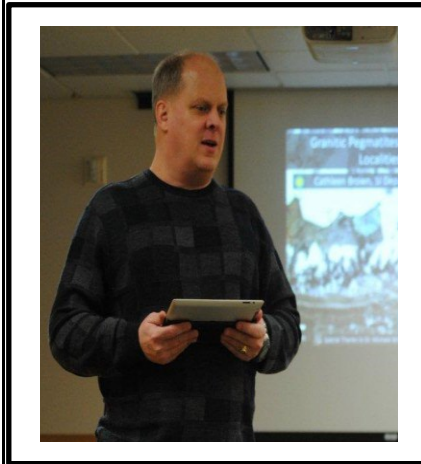
of Jan Lievens, Gabriel Metsu and, with colleagues in Washington and Houston, the still life painter Willem van Aelst. Her current research documents seventeenth-century evaluations of artistic style through technical study of artistic interactions among Dutch genre painters working 1650–1675.

Based on minute study of the pigments used, we established that Dürer himself painted both sides and that he must have painted them at the same time, not at different times in his career. My colleagues carried out fiber-optic reflectance spectroscopy (FORS) and X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF) and I carried out polarizing light microscopy (PLM). The talk shows how the techniques complement one another, each contributing to the investigation. There are lots of PLM images, illustrating the identification of natural mineral pigments (different earth pigments, azurite blue, ultramarine blue/lapis); man-made mineral pigments (lead-tin yellow, vermilion red, an unusual form of verdigris green) as well as synthetic pigments combining mineral and organic components (red lake: made from a dyestuff co-precipitated with aluminum hydroxide).



THE PREZ SAYS...

By Stephen Johnson



Well, the year is almost over. One more meeting before our Christmas party. I'm looking forward to hearing November's speaker, Melanie Gifford from the National Gallery of Art who will

be talking about Minerals in Fine Art Paintings. Today we walk into a Michael's or some other art or craft store and pick the colors we want in a variety of paints, but back in the day, the artists basically had to make their own. And a great source of stable colors were minerals and they were commonly used to make the pigments for the paint - think lapis lazuli for blue or goethite/limonite for ochre (yellow/brown color). I'm sure Melanie will have much better examples, but those were the two that immediately popped into my head.

Also, we will be having our annual elections at the December meeting. If anyone is interested in running for a position please let me or any other board member know. We particularly need to find someone interested in putting together the newsletter. Sheryl has done an outstanding and award winning job! She has agreed to help the new editor get going. Please consider it if you have the time and interest.

Well, that's it for now. We will be sending out information about the Christmas party as we get closer to the event. I hope to see everyone at our November meeting.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Secretary's Report



By Rick Rieber

Meeting Date: 10/1/2014

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

Attendees: 17

Agenda:

Minutes Approved: Minutes from previous meeting approved.

Visitors: John (last name not provided) An artist who wants to put a picture inside a piece of quartz to use in an art exhibition.

Treasurer's report: \$2253.54. One of the CD's matures 10/27/14 so when it matures it will be transferred to checking.

Old Business:

New Business: Meeting raffle winners: Joe (the visitor), Holly, Andy Thompson, Ed Thacker.

Geology in the News: Volcano erupted in Japan. There is an article on Sulfites in *Mineralogical News* magazine with an acknowledgment of Jessica and Bob Simonoff's work with minerals.

Club Member Concerns & Announcements:

Steve Johnson made hard plastic club name badges from 3-D printer.

Announcements:

Cynthia Payne's 91st birthday will be celebrated on October 21

Past Presidents at the meeting: Andy Thompson and Ed Thacker

Dave and Leslie Nanney were acknowledged by Ed and Susan Fisher for the time and hard work that they put into organizing Cynthia Payne's collection.

Motion to Adjourn to the Program:

Accepted

Program: Show and tell by several individual club members

Refreshments: Courtesy of Andy and Betty Thompson; and the Ed and Susan Fisher.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 9:55PM



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Going Once! Going Twice! Sold!

By Sheryl E. Sims

It's hard to beat the energy in the midst of a bidding war! The mineral auction that I participated in September 2014, hosted by another local club, was great fun. Surrounded by all types of beautiful minerals, I found it difficult to keep my checkbook shut! There were times when I had to let beauties slip away, but I didn't leave the meeting empty-handed.

Much to my delight, I added minerals to my collection from some of my favorite mineral collectors— George Reimherr, Wayne Sukow, and Jim Kostka. One was a beautiful specimen of rhodochrosite with gageite from the N'Chwaning Mine in Hotazel, Kuruman, South Africa. Another was a fluorescent piece of strontianite from Winfield Quarry in Pennsylvania. I was even fortunate enough to buy a piece of Seneca Creek red sandstone from the Smithsonian Castle! I enjoy having

pieces in my collection that I can associate with other collectors. It makes each acquisition very special.



(photos by S. Sims)

REMINDER: Elections are just around the corner! Please let the current officers and Board members know if you are



Above: Rhodochrosite with gageite (South Africa); Left: strontianite (Pennsylvania); Seneca Creek sandstone (Maryland). Right: The red sandstone is from blocks quarried near Seneca Creek that were used to build the Smithsonian Castle. The National Mall architect has spare blocks for repairs to the castle, and the specimen is from one of them.



REMINDER: Elections are just around the corner! Please let the current officers and Board members know if you are interested in serving! This is YOUR club! Please help keep it energized and going with your ideas and willingness to serve.


SHOUT OUTS:

MORE REFRESHMENTS, PLEASE! A big THANK YOU to those who provided refreshments for our meeting -- especially Betty and Andy Thompson! If you are able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated!

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! Guests are always welcome to attend MSDC meetings.

THANK YOU to Andy Thompson for the time that he devotes towards proofreading the Mineral Minutes. His assistance is invaluable! Special thanks to **Susan and Ed Fisher** for mailing our newsletter to those without email!

2014 DUES
Please renew your membership today!
\$20 for single member-ships.
\$25 for family memberships.



Mail to: P.O. Box 9957
Alexandria, VA 22304



When national park users collect rocks, they're committing a crime

Caught rock handed!

by Laurie Schreiber

(Used with permission from Tom Groening, Editor, The Working Waterfront; workingwaterfront.com)



Schoodic park ranger Bill Weidner. LAURIE SCHREIBER

SCHOODIC PENINSULA — Most folks are good-natured when caught stealing rocks at Schoodic Peninsula, the mainland section of Acadia National Park.

click to enlarge



Visitors at Schoodic properly take pictures, not rocks LAURIE SCHREIBER

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At one beach, park ranger Bill Weidner had a hunch.

"The hatch was open on a van, stacks of clean towels in back," he said. He politely approached the owner.

He said to the woman at the van, "You know, I was kind of wondering if you have any rocks." She laughed, and Weidner responded, "I don't see the joke."

She then said, "Well, we were loading these rocks, and my husband said, 'I hope the rock police don't come.'"

Weidner conceded the violators "have a sense of humor."

A congenial man whose daily duties include monitoring the safety of sightseers perilously close to Schoodic's surf, Weidner also oversees the integrity of the natural resource. Recently, he pointed out the vast, fractured ledges of pink granite, interspersed with black basalt and the odd rounded boulder carried by glacier from a distinct geological region miles away.

"There's so much uniqueness among these rocks," he said.

That's why folks steal them. After all, the glacier-scoured, wave-polished rounded stones most attractive are beguiling to the eye and pleasant to handle. It's natural that people want souvenirs where the supply seems endless.

But it's illegal to take them. The federal violation results in a \$50 fine and \$25 court fee. Revenue goes to a fund for federal-crime victims.

Some favor "wish" rocks—mainly black, with a white ring. Heart-shaped rocks are popular. People take rocks for landscaping.

Why is it illegal to collect this abundant resource?

"If you like those rocks, if you take them away, the next person won't be able to see them. They belong to everyone," he said.

The other aspect of the rock story is the tendency of some people to build trail cairns or beach sculptures. The former, said Weidner, poses a safety risk for other hikers trying to keep to the trail. The latter is an aesthetic invasion.

"All of the staff and volunteers knock them down," he said. "The idea of a national park is to see it the way it is."

Weidner, who has worked at Acadia on and off since 1977, has plenty more stories.

- "This lady was kind of falling over with this heavy bag. I thought, 'Is this going to be an EMS call, or is it rocks?' I said, 'Ma'am are you OK?' 'Oh yeah.' I said, 'What do you have in the bag?' 'Oh,

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it's full of rocks.' I said, 'Didn't you see the sign right there?' She says, 'Yeah, but it didn't say I'd get a fine.'"

- "They were having problems at the airport in Bar Harbor with luggage. It was overweight," he said. "There were too many rocks in people's suitcases."
- "I was having a yard sale. A woman's there, sorting through our stuff. Her cellphone rings. She talks, then says to her friend, 'That's my husband. He saw an article about stealing rocks out of Schoodic. We shouldn't take any today.' She had no idea I was a park ranger."
- A French-speaking Canadian holding some rocks said she thought the "don't remove" sign meant not to re-move rocks from here to there on the beach. She said she had no more rocks. Because of the apparent language barrier, Weidner planned to give her just a warning. She opened the trunk to get identification—revealing a pile of rocks. Weidner is humorous in such situations. "I slapped my head and said, 'Oh, mon dieu!' I try not to embarrass people. But I don't like to be lied to. I wrote her a ticket."

MEET, GREET, & EAT!



Join MSDC club members enjoy dinner together before each meeting.
(We are currently meeting at Elephant & Castle. 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.)

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PHOTOS FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING - MEMBERS SHOW & SHARE

(photos by Sheryl Sims, Betty Thompson, & Pat Flavin)





Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Volunteer in a new exhibition
at the National Museum of Natural History
The Last American Dinosaurs: Discovering a Lost World

In November 2014, The National Museum of Natural History will open the exhibit, ***The Last American Dinosaurs: Discovering a Lost World***. Sixty-six million years ago, the last dinosaurs roamed what is now the Western Interior of North America. Then global catastrophe ended their reign, leaving only a single group of dinosaurs -- birds -- to survive. Like all life, dinosaurs were part of a complex ecological community of animals and plants. Join us as we piece together a picture of their world by looking at fossils from this ancient time.

This four-year exhibition will provide our visitors with the opportunity to see dinosaurs and other fossils and to learn about mass extinction events, in particular the K/Pg extinction event that occurred 66 million years ago, and the role these events play in shaping past, present, and future ecosystems. We will also “pull back the curtain” for a peek behind the exhibit development process by including the lively dialogue between science and art that leads to beautiful and accurate reconstructions of life in the past.

The following volunteer opportunity is available:

Exhibit Guides

- Introduce visitors to the exhibit and answer questions
- Encourage visitors to think more deeply about paleontology including how fossils help us understand past worlds, extinction and dinosaur biology.
- Interpret the behind-the-scenes work of fossil preparation happening in the FossilLab
- Lead visitors in hands-on activities that will enhance understanding of paleontology

Training:

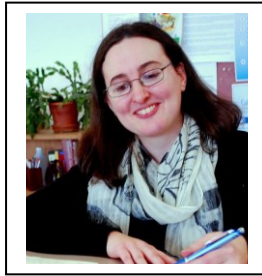
- Five sessions beginning in late October
- Will include sessions on museum learning, visitor engagement, paleontology, and fossil preparation
- The engaging and interactive training will be led by Museum educators and paleontologists

Qualifications:

- Interest in understanding paleontology
- Comfortable working with diverse audiences
- Good communication skills
- Teaching experience and a science background are a bonus
- Ability to multitask

For more information please email NMNHVolunteer@si.edu

Treasurer's Note: -
Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal



(Photo by Ann Cameron Siegal)

Please send all treasurer-related emails to: dmineralclub@gmail.com.
Also, please make sure that the Treasurer has your most current contact information.



(Microsoft Clipart)

Speaker Flash Back

January 2014: Tim Rose, Smithsonian, Museum Specialist-Manager, Analytical Laboratories, Department of Mineral Sciences, will start our New Year off with a presentation on: The Mysterious Stone Masks of Teotihuacan, geologist in the Division of Mineralogy, for The Smithsonian National

February 2014: Sue Marcus, Australia— Minerals and Museums.

March 2014: GWU Field Trip/Dr. Richard Tollo & Student Presentation

April 2014: Joe Marty – Microminerals

May 2014: Wayne Sukow – Agates

June 2014: Dr. Brent Owens – The College of William and Mary.

July-August 2014: No meetings held.

September 2014: Ms. Penny Masuoka - “The Geology of Maryland and Three Interesting Parks to Visit.”

October 2014: MSDC Members - Show & Share



(Andy Muir's fluorescent mineral. Photo by P. Flavin)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November

1–2: 45th Gemarama; Tuscarora Lapidary Society; CFS, The School at Church Farm, 1001 E. Lincoln Hwy, Exton, PA 19431 <http://www.lapidary.org>

22–23: Northern Virginia Mineral Club Annual Show; George Mason University; Braddock Rd. and Rte. 123, Fairfax, VA; 10–6, Sun 10–4. To volunteer, please click on <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/764754762068!>

March 2015

7–8: 52nd Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show; Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc.; Delaware Technical and Community College, 400 Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark, DE; Sat 10–6, Sun 11–5; \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children 12–16, under 12 free <http://www.delminsociety.org>

28–29: 46th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club show; Athens Twp. Vol. Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave, Sayre, PA; Sat 9–5, Sun 10–4; contact Bob McGuire uvbob@epix.net

**Volunteer at the National Museum of Natural History
in The Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems & Minerals**

The Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals contains thousands of world-class rocks, minerals and meteorites that tell fascinating stories about how our planet and solar system were formed and continue to evolve today. Volunteers will enhance the visitor experience by providing visitors with unique experiences and a wider understanding of how geology impacts in our daily lives.

AS A VOLUNTEER, YOU WILL:

- Introduce visitors to the exhibit and answer questions
- Enhance visitor experience by encouraging visitors to think more deeply about geology
- Help visitors understand how geologic objects can tell us about Earth's past, present and future
- Engage visitors in interactive discussions about geology and how it relates to current issues

TRAINING:

- 5 evening sessions beginning in late October
- Will include: Scientific content in meteorites, plate tectonics, and minerals & gems,
- How to engage diverse audiences
- Training will be led by museum educators from and researchers

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Interest in understanding geology
- Comfortable working with diverse audiences
- Good communication skills
- No prior knowledge of geology necessary, but teaching experience and a science background are a bonus
- Ability to multi-task

For more information, please email NMNHVolunteer@si.edu

2014 MSDC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



(left to right: Steve Johnson, Patricia Flavin, Rick Reiber, Rebecca Siegal, Dave Hennessey, Andy Thompson, Dave Nanney, & 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: Patricia Flavin - pattiflavin@gmail.com; Secretary: Rick Reiber - Mathfun34@yahoo.com; Treasurer: Rebecca Siegal - dcm mineralclub@gmail.com; Directors: Dave Hennessey - dhennessey@spa.com; Dave Nanney - DNanney@cox.net; Andy Thompson - thompson01@starpower.net; Editor: Sheryl Sims - sesims4@cox.net



FEDERATION NEWS- AFMS Officers for 2013-14

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, annmonroe@windstream.net; **Secretary**, Anne Cook, secretary@amfed.org; **Treasurer**, Pat LaRue, bpalarue@earthlink.net



(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

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Pre-Meeting Dinner: Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner before the club meeting. Location: Elephant & Castle, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Please contact Patricia Flavin, pattiflavin@gmail.com or Steve Johnson, StevikJ@gmail.com, 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

(2014 Officers & Board Members)

President: Steve Johnson, stevikj@gmail.com

Vice President & Program Chair: Patricia Flavin, pattiflavin@gmail.com

Secretary: Rick Reiber, Mathfun34@yahoo.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 Masters: 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.**

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The Mineral Minutes is an EFMLS & AFMS Award Winning Bulletin

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U.S.A.

Time Sensitive Dated Material
First-Class Mail