

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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Founded 1942

September 2014

MSDC SPEAKER – SEPTEMBER 3, 2014



photo by Penny Masuoka

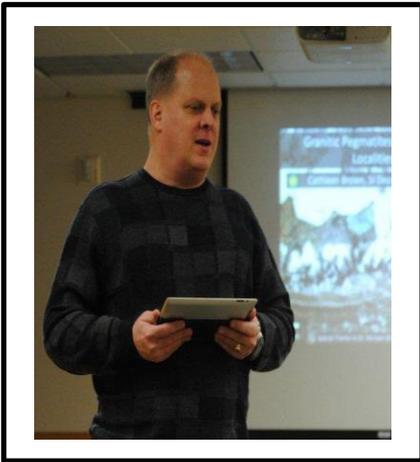
Ms. Penny Masuoka received a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1981. She worked as a contractor at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center for 24 years, supporting research scientists in geology and other fields. She currently works at

the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland where she teaches geographic information systems and does geographic analysis for public health research projects. She has co-authored 25 peer reviewed papers and presented talks at 24 conferences. She is a member of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club and the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington.

Ms. Masuoka will present a talk titled "The Geology of Maryland and Three Interesting Parks to Visit." She will talk about the different rock forming conditions in Maryland that formed the distinct physiographic provinces and the fossils and minerals that we see in the state today. Then she will discuss the geology of three parks: Dinosaur Park, Soldier's Delight, and Sideling Hill.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>MSDC Speaker, Dr. Brent Owens</i>	1-2
<i>The Prez Says</i>	2
<i>Flashback: W&M</i>	3-4
<i>I've Looked at Clouds (Moon)</i>	5-6
<i>Each One Teach One</i>	7-8
<i>May Meeting</i>	8-9
<i>Chinese Painting Stones</i>	10
<i>Minium</i>	11
<i>Secretary's Report</i>	12
<i>Treasurer's Note</i>	13
<i>AFMS News</i>	14-16
<i>Speaker Flash Back,</i>	16
<i>SCRIBE</i>	17
<i>Remembering Marie Brown</i>	18
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	17-18
<i>Record Gold Nugget Found</i>	19
<i>Wildacres A Great Place to Be</i>	20-23
<i>MSDC Memory to Share</i>	23-24
<i>Wildacres Registration</i>	25
<i>MSDC Officers</i>	26
<i>Membership Application</i>	27



**THE PREZ
SAYS...**

By Stephen Johnson

See you at the meeting!

Geology in the News, Its Broad Context and Interconnections

By Andy Thompson



The Badakhshan (Afghanistan) landslide, showing its extreme mobility
Photo by Blal Sarwary as posted on Dave Petley's Landslide Blog.

One relatively new and interesting agenda item for our club's monthly meetings has been the "Geology in the news" segment in which members share a short summary of some geologically-related recent news event they came across. It serves as a 'heads up' for members who may have missed reports about a collecting site, a new mineral discovery, earthquake or even some lunar or planetary finding. It also helps club members recognize the broad nature of geology and its context.

Listening to these events might occasion in some seasoned members' minds the questions raised in the 1966 romantic comedy film "Alfie" whose lyrical theme is the song: What's it all about, Alfie? It asks viewers: Is that all there is? Similarly, perhaps club members could ask: are these geological news events all random, disconnected one-of-a-kind incidents or is there something more meaningful tying them together?

To explore this question, interested club members may want to visit a blog entitled "Cataclysms and Catastrophes," written by geologist Susan Kieffer, emerita professor of geology at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. In a recent newspaper interview, she explained her view that geology is broader than most people think and "isn't just the study of rocks, as is sometimes assumed, but of the whole system of planet Earth." While reading her blog or any of her publications, it helps to know that she comes at geological matters with a background of physics. What tops her list of research interests is "geological physics" and that is reflected in the broad range of courses she has taught at the University.

MINERAL MINUTES



The Exploratorium in San Francisco holds an annual Pi Procession of pi's digits.

Friday, March 14, 2014 - Happy Pi Day!
Young folks celebrating Pi Day at San Francisco's
Exploratorium.

Photo from CNN.com.

Within that wide perspective, she has a specific focus. If something in nature explodes, collapses or crashes, you can probably read about it in her blog at www.geologyinmotion.com. Remember the Chile earthquake in early April 2014 or the dreaded polar vortex which gave us such a harsh winter? It's all explained there with helpful graphics. And her blog is not limited to news of destruction. She also explains the beautiful aurora effect on Jupiter's moon Europa and her personal reflections on San Francisco children's celebration of Pi-Day on March 14th (3.14). Her blog is a rich resource for exploring a wide range of scientific subject matter, all linked to geology.

In October of 2013, Dr. Kieffer published her book, [The Dynamics of Disaster](#), which documents specific examples of her big-picture, systems perspective. In an interview about her research she said:

"Geology is around us everywhere – rocks not only provide our building materials but weather to give the soil that provides our food. The water cycle of the planet satisfies our need for water, as well as creates some of our most expensive hazards – floods. Geological processes gave us the fossil fuels we use for power."

Examples of these geological hazards include the March 2014 mud slide in Oso, Washington in which over 40 lives were lost. Others include the 4 May 2014 landslide in North Eastern Afghanistan which claimed somewhere between 400 and 2,000 lives. Earlier large mud slides in Mexico and China have also taken a large toll in human lives and housing.

It is possible that when the average person and perhaps even some mineral collectors read or hear about such events, they don't consider them as geological in nature. That is when Dr. Kieffer connects the dots and helps us grasp the inter-relationship of weather, water, land and erosion. Her broad view helps us identify how climate trends and so many natural events reported in the media are indeed geological and have implications which require our vigilance and study. She would encourage us that our club's "geology in the news" segment is not about random natural events but central to how geology actually works in real life.



MY MINERAL FIELD OF DREAMS

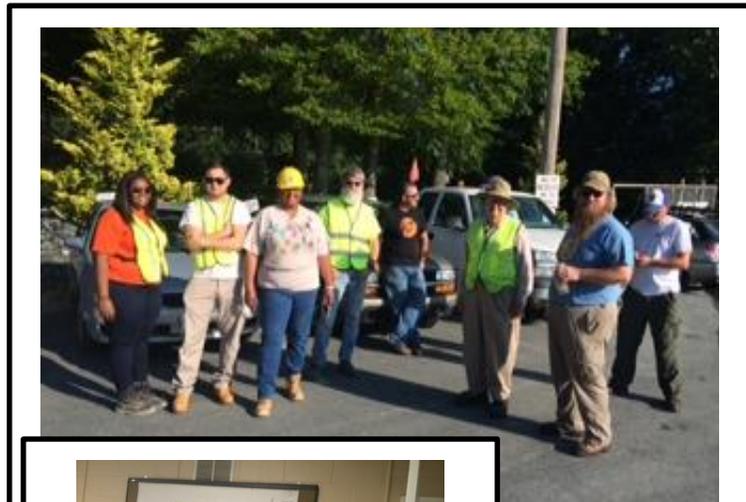
By Sheryl E. Sims

On June 28, 2014, I was invited to participate in a field trip. It was to the Bluegrass Material Company/Churchville Quarry, just outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Even though it's been years since my last visit to a quarry, I couldn't pass up the chance to attend with my daughter, Amber, and her boyfriend, Jorge. He is a new member, to Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia Club ("MSDC"), and this was his first field trip.

GLMSMC Field Trip Chair, Jonathan Harris, was kind in allowing members of the MSDC to attend. Chris Luzier, GLMSMC President, along with Andy Muir, and Dave Fryauff, were present and very helpful to those of us who didn't really know what we were doing. I really appreciated the time that they took to explain things to us. It was nice to see rockhounds from the Southern Maryland Club, and I believe the Lynchburg club, too.

I was reminded how welcoming fellow rockhounds were to new and inexperienced members. This proved to be the case again. Several people offered us minerals that they found. They also took time to explain which minerals were which and how to "read" the rocks.

It was a beautiful day and it really wasn't too hot. The drive was easy, and after a short safety brief, we headed to Level 4 of the quarry. The quarry was very active that day. People were working, so, for our safety, we were restricted to Level 4. We were fine with that. It was the first time that I'd seen rocks being carried off in 7-ton trucks, sent down the conveyor belt for crushing, then hauled away by the company's customers. It was really interesting seeing that much rock move!



MINERAL MINUTES

I was unfamiliar with the minerals found at this site. I checked the Mindat website and found that the following minerals can be found in Churchville Quarry: Calcite, Chabaziet, Chalcopyrite, Diopside, Epidote, Laumontite, Pyrite, Scolecicte, Stilbite, and Clinozoisite. I believe that there are a few other minerals to be found there as well.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Clinozoisite,_Amphibole_Group_-_Mount_Belvidere_Quarries,_Vermont,_USA.jpg.
Category: Sorosilicates; Epidote group.
 $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{SiO}_4)\text{O}(\text{OH})$



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Scol%C3%A9cite.jpg>
Scolecicte. Category: Zeolites. $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chabazite>
Category: Tectosilicate. $(\text{Ca},\text{K}_2,\text{Na}_2)_2[\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{12}]_2\cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laumontite>
Category: Tectosilicate - Zeolite group
 $\text{Ca}(\text{AlSi}_2\text{O}_6)_2\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$,



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcopyrite>
Category: Sulfide mineral. CuFeS_2



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diopside>
Category: Silicate mineral. $\text{MgCaSi}_2\text{O}_6$



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Epidote_Oisans.jpg. Category: Sorosilicates. $\{\text{Ca}_2\}\{\text{Al}_2\text{Fe}^{3+}\}[\text{O}|\text{OH}|\text{SiO}_4|\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]$



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stilbite>
Category: Zeolite. Stilbite-Ca: $\text{NaCa}_4(\text{Si}_{27}\text{Al}_9)\text{O}_{72}\cdot 28(\text{H}_2\text{O})$
Stilbite-Na: $\text{Na}_9(\text{Si}_{27}\text{Al}_9)\text{O}_{72}\cdot 28(\text{H}_2\text{O})$



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrite>.
Category. Sulfide mineral. FeS_2



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Calcite&id=7CC0C1851BF372527A10094FED517C3229F8ACF6&FORM=IQFRBA>. Category. Carbonate mineral. CaCO_3

As soon as I got home and cleaned up, I checked through my stash to see what I found. Thanks to the help of others with identification and my trusty mineral field book, I discovered that I found some

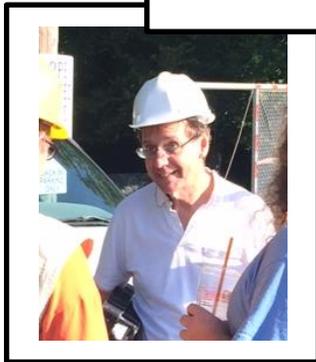
September 2014

6

MINERAL MINUTES

MINERAL MINUTES

Clinozoisite, Laumontite, Pyrite, Calcite, Serpentine and Schorl. All things considered, I did pretty well since I barely cracked open a rock! I've promised myself that on my next field trip, I will work harder in that department. I've never hit a vein or cracked a rock open to find its hidden mineral treasure; except in my dreams. It's time to get cracking!



Rockhound Dictionary

(The under-the bridged Version)

SCRIBE Newsletter April 1995.

Agate: An opening (door) in a fence.
Archeologist: A person whose career is in ruins.
Barium: What you do with your cloths after You meet a skunk.
Boule: A dish that holds fruit on the table.
Cabochon: A small French taxi.
Coral: A place to keep sea horses.
Crystal: A girl's name.
Crystalline: Her twin sister.
Cube: A square viewed from a angle.
Detour: 1. A road opened especially for tourist.
2. A summer road for tourists.
Diamond: The hardest stone known to man to get Back from his old girlfriend.
Dust: What kids substitute for mud when it doesn't rain.
Earthquake: The result of Mother Nature not taking Her earth control pills.

MINERAL MINUTES

Era: A mistake.
Expert: Someone 50 miles from home.
Faceting: A complex way to ruin a good jewel.
Field Trip: 1. An Impossible trek to an inaccessible place for non-existent minerals.
2. When you fall down outside.
Filing Cabinet: System for losing things alphabetical.
Findings: Stuff you find.
Flintknapping: A sleepy stone.
Fortification: 1. Two twentyfications.
2. A large gulp of Good whiskey.
Fossils: A teen-ager's parents
Friend: One who can see the star in your sapphire.
Garnet: What you say when a rock drops on your foot.
Gentleman: A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in.
Geode: A poem of G (often written in hollow verse)
Geologists: People who have their faults.
Grinding Wheel: The bearing going out on your old truck
Igneous: Dumb
Inclusion: Unwanted third person on a date.

Secretary's Report



By Rick Rieber

Meeting Date: 6/4/2014

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

Attendees: 14

Minutes Approved: Minutes from previous meeting approved

Visitors: Matt and Jean Charsky

Treasurer's report: \$2,829.41

MINERAL MINUTES

Old Business: Members will be issued membership cards after they have paid their dues. See the Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal, to get a membership card.

New Business: Meeting raffle winners: Matt Charsky, Rebecca Siegal, Jeff Guerber, Dave Hennessey, Holly McNeil

Geology in the News: 5.8 earthquake in Juneau, AK. Discovery of a rocky planet 17x the size of Earth by Kepler space telescope. An earthquake tracking app has been put out by the USGS

Club Member Concerns & Announcements-

Nothing to report.

Announcements: Jim Kostka and several other club members are helping Cynthia Brown organize her collection for partial sale. Part of her collection has been donated to MSDC.

Motion to Adjourn to the Program: Accepted

Program:

See details in newsletter

Refreshments

Meeting adjourned Meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM

MORE REFRESHMENTS, PLEASE! A big THANK YOU to those who provided refreshments for our meeting. If you are able to bring refreshments to our monthly meetings, please do so.

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

see our friend and member, George Loud, at our last meeting!

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!

Treasurer's Note: -

Treasurer, Rebecca Siegal



(Photo by Ann Cameron Siegal)

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

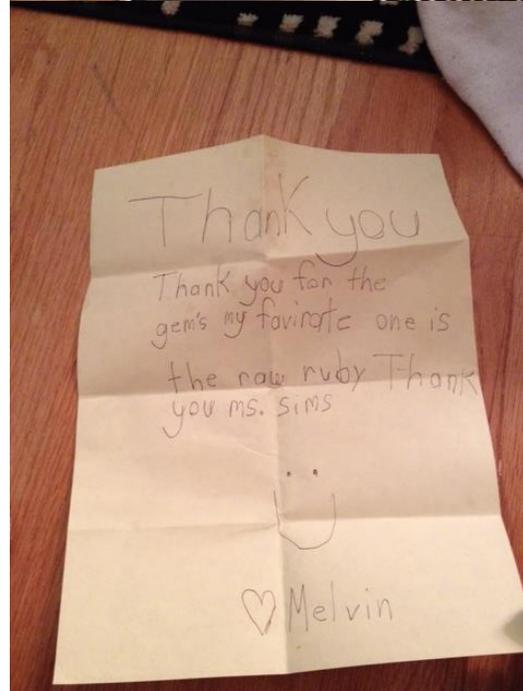
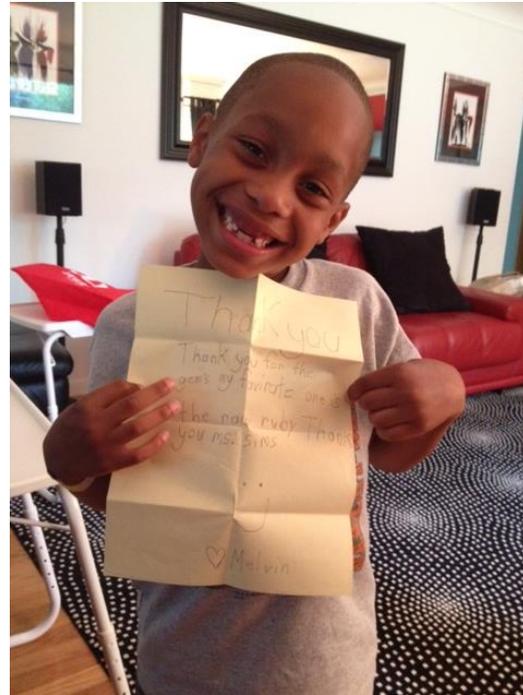
2014 DUES

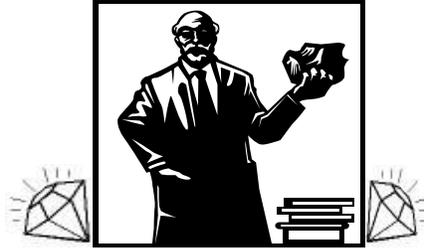
Please renew your membership today!

\$20 for single member-ships. \$25 for family memberships.



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





(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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August

15-17: Gem Miners Jubilee; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4; admission: \$6; Lebanon Expo Center, Lebanon, PA <http://www.gem-show.com>

September

1-7: EFMLS workshops at Wildacres Geology Retreat; Fall classes, tuition \$390 www.amfed.org/efmls

November

22-23: Northern Virginia Mineral Club Annual Show; George Mason University; Braddock

S.C.R.I.B.E. is an international organization of bulletin editors of amateur gem, mineral, and earth science societies. S.C.R.I.B.E. exists to:

- improve communication and public relations among gem and mineral societies, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors; and
- advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all ideas for publishing better bulletins

Visit the website at: <http://scribe.rbnet.net/>.

REMINDER: WILDACRES! A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

By Gerry Cox, Secretary EFMLS

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR SEPTEMBER ASAP!

Scrimshaw Class

Scrimshaw created in Wildacres class



(Left - below) Photography Class at Wildacres. Common Opal with Dendrites. Photographed by Gerry Cox.



(Right- above) Silversmith Instruction at Wildacres

September 2014

The Secret ~~is~~ Out!

MINERAL MINUTES

2014 EFMLS Wildacres Registration

PLEASE, ONLY one person per form per session

CHECK ONE: April 7 – 13: _____ September 1 – 7: _____

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending and return to PAMM BRYANT, Registrar at 2645 Davis Mill Rd, Goochland, VA 23063. No registration will be accepted prior to January 1, 2014. (To make it easier for the registrar and others, please do not change or revise this form. You may photocopy it as needed.) **Please write legibly!**

Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number with area code: _____ e-mail: _____

Club/Society Affiliation: _____

Fee for the spring session is \$390.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration.

Fee for the fall session is \$390.00 per person. Deposit is \$185 per person, payable with registration.

Make checks payable to "EFMLS". Balance of fee is due 30 days prior to start of session.

No postdated checks will be accepted.

Cancellation policy: *If unable to attend, fees paid will be refunded if notification is given prior to one month before the session begins. **No refund will be made after that date.***

Circle appropriate responses:

Have you been to Wildacres before? Yes _____ No _____ Is your Club paying your tuition? Yes _____ No _____

Name of roommate: _____ (If none, one will be assigned).

Are you: Male _____ Female _____ (No single rooms are available). Are you a smoker? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any physical handicaps and / or special dietary needs? Yes _____ No _____ If YES, please explain on reverse side.

Do you have material for exhibiting that you would be willing to display at Wildacres? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a skill to demonstrate or a program to share (up to 40 minutes)? Yes _____ No _____

Class Pre-registration. See EFMLS Newsletter or Web site for class offerings. <www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>

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.)

2014 MSDC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



(left to right: Steve Johnson, Rick Reiber, Patricia Flavin, 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

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, dcminalclub@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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Time Sensitive Dated Material
First-Class Mail