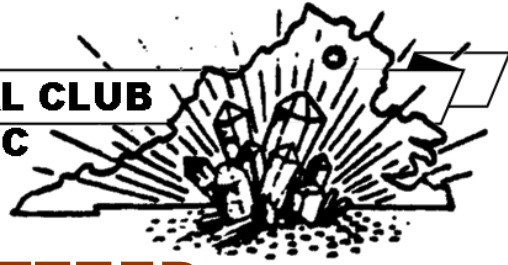




THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA MINERAL CLUB INC



Crystals are the flowers of the Mineral Kingdom



THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER

Meeting: May 21 Time: 7:30-10 p.m.

Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, VA 22204

**Due to Memorial Day, the meeting is Monday, May 21,
rather than our traditional 4th Monday, May 28.**

Speaker: Yinan Wang

Fossil Insects of the Crato formation of Brazil: A look at the variety of insect fossils from the cretaceous from that locality and the various commercial, scientific, and political issues at play.

President's Message

Now's the time! The weather is nice (well, it's nice as I write this!), so now's the time to get out and go collecting! Minerals! Fossils! Lots of opportunities! I've heard that some of our members have taken advantage of recent field trips that have been offered by our friends in the Montgomery County Club. And Pat Rehill continues to offer her wonderful fossil collecting adventures along the Bay! Another of these trips is planned for June (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Now's also the time to learn from your collection. Are your specimens labeled? Catalogued? Knowing where a specimen was found is important and even valuable. The information is important because it adds to the knowledge about the locality--what minerals/fossils are found there, what were the associated minerals/fossils, etc. Once a place is mined, or a beach location for fossils is eroded, there is no way of telling what was there--unless we



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Also find information on our Club
website:

<http://www.novamineralclub.org/>

**Please meet with our speaker Mr.
Yinan Wang on Monday, May 21 @
6:00 P.M. at the Peking Gourmet Inn,
6029 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church.
Please call or email Barry if you want
to attend at 703-262-0221 or
bsbremer@comcast.net. He will
reserve space if possible.**

Peking Gourmet Inn

6029 Leesburg Pike

Baileys Crossroad

703-671-8088

www.PekingGourmet.com

document our finds. This information is valuable because experienced collectors want to know what they are buying or trading, and specimens with good location information are worth more than ones that are only hunks of rock with unknown provenance. So now's the time to collect, sort, catalogue, and do some collector's spring cleaning. I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting where we can all learn from each other. – Sue Marcus

Meeting Minutes April 23, 2012

By Kathy Hrechka, Secretary

President Sue Marcus opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.. She welcomed guests, Curt Anderson and Cheryl Schroeder.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Reiber reminded club members that dues are due for 2012. He requested that paying by check is fine since checks contain name and contact info. When paying dues with cash Reiber requested members to complete and turn in the form along with payment so that a payment record can be maintained.

Old Business: The March minutes were approved as written in the newsletter.

Field Trips: A new Field Trip Coordinator is needed. Pat Rehill volunteered to be Co-trip Chair.

New Business: A motion was made for a Public Relations Chair, which Jim Kostka volunteered to fill. He has already produced flyers which advertise our club, and also the Micromounter's NCA club. Marcus stated that we need a Membership Coordinator. Lane Douglas Brooks volunteered to fill that position.

"Geology in the News" Sheryl Sims reported that a sonic boom was heard in California, which was said to have been meteorites passing through the atmosphere over Ely, Nevada.

Dave MacLean announced the MNCA Conference will be held in Elkridge, MD April 27-29.

Jim Kostka and Tom Taaffe announced the NVMC Show at GMU for Nov. 17-18, 2012.

"Show & Tell"

- * Kathy Hrechka brought fluorescent sand from Sterling Hill, NJ, and calcites from different localities which fluoresced pink.
- * Jeff Cessna brought his self-collected Miocene era, fossil shark teeth from Calvert Cliffs, MD.
- * Pat Rehill showed a variety of fossil shark teeth.
- * Jim Kostka showed green grossular garnets from Quebec, Canada, and had many give-away minerals from Vulcan Quarry.
- * Sue Marcus showed assorted minerals.

Break for Refreshments:

Ti Meredith facilitated the door prize drawing which was won by junior member, Noah Wax. He was the proud owner of a new geology book and an accompanying rock.

Program: Pat Rehill presented her home movie of how to collect fossil shark teeth at the Brownie Beach Cliffs, Calvert County, MD. She also showed a Travel Channel "Cash & Treasures" fluorescent mineral collecting at the Sterling Hill Mine, New Jersey.

Congratulations Rebecca Ilana Siegal

Our Junior club member, Rebecca Ilana Siegal has completed her undergraduate studies at Radford University with concentrations in forensic anthropology, archaeology and geology. Her senior independent study project was on forensic odontology - the handling and evaluation of dental evidence, which included bite mark identification.



FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS!

by Sheryl Sims



Four-year old, Brice Trinidad, learns to use a loupe as he looks at newly-acquired minerals donated by mineral club members. Later, he took his new mineral collection to Ft. Belvoir's Bright Horizons Day Care Center to show and share with classmates. Brice participated in a class activity where his class looked for rocks "in the field".

Brice Trinidad enjoys his new poster of Discovery Missions, donated by Ti Meredith of NVMC, and being held by his friend, Amber and sister, Macey.

Welcome Fossil Hunters to our Summer Season of Fossil Beach Fun!

What: Private Fossil Collecting Trip near Solomon's Island, Maryland-Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay

This is a large beautiful private beach located at Cove Point Historic Lighthouse and Coast Guard Station (see article in the Arlington Magazine Food & Drink May/June 2012 issue pg. 129)

When: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 10am til 12 noon. Don't be late, we can go to another close by beach after this for a total of 4 hours. 10am til 2pm or later.

Details: Cove Point Lighthouse/Beach Fossil Trip is in conjunction with the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomon's Island, Md., who handles tours of Cove Point Beach, which also has the historic Cove Point Lighthouse & Coast Guard Station. I was able to get an exclusive use of the beach and "Educational Program" for our club to go fossil hunting on June 19, 2012, which is a Tuesday, and hopefully the children will be out of school by then. Our time to hunt is 10 am to 12 noon. Should be beautiful This is a large private beach that is not over hunted for sharks teeth.

Fee: should be \$6 per person with a single \$25 program fee (additionally-split between us) for a staff member to escort us and educate us on fossils.

Fossils- What To Look For:

Don't forget these fossils date back to the Miocene Epoch 8-22 million years ago. The bay was once an ancient ocean. These fossils are part of the sediment from is time. This isn't your Grandma's beach combing adventure. You will find Shark teeth, Croc teeth, Bone Fragments of everything, shells, coral, arrowheads, you name it.

How to Dress: You will be out on a beach which could be exposed to high winds, depending on the weather. Keep your eye on the weather. Google it and the tides. Dress in layers-shorts, bathing suit, light shirt, hat, sun screen!! wear water shoes-since there may be shells, etc. that could hunt your toes.

Collecting Items: Lots of teeth are found at water's edge. You will need collection bags-plastic food bags, "dollar store" handled pasta strainer.

Snacks: bottled water, peanut butter sandwich, snacks. No food is available here.

Directions: It is about a 1-3/4 hour trip for me from Tyson's Corner. Another way to figure it is, it is 45-1 hour minutes from the Beltway/495 exit for Upper Marlboro Md., Route 4. There are police along Route 4, since everyone drives 70 mph. OOPS! So be careful. We can car pool or drive in a caravan. Once you are on Route 4, stay on it all the way about 45 minutes and make a left onto Route 497-Cove Point Road, which turns into Lighthouse Blvd. You will see the lighthouse. You will travel through several towns with services for gas, food, etc.

<http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=431>

<http://itouchmap.com/?d=1676571&s=MD&f=b each>

Look at the satellite map and position it at the lighthouse. The beach to the left is where we will hunt.

Contact:*Patricia Rehill
Direct Line 703-992-8345
Cell phone 703-915-1883

Several MSDC Members Attend Atlantic Micromounters Conference Speaker: Dr. John A. Jaszczak, Adjunct Professor, Michigan Technological University (Elkridge, MD on April 28.)



(Cynthia Payne, Dave McLean, Sheryl Sims, Jim Kostka, Kathy Hrecka)
(photo provided by Sheryl Sims)



John Jaszczak is a native of Ohio and is currently professor of physics and adjunct curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. He has been an avid mineral collector since childhood, and began an interest in micromounting while in college at Case Western Reserve University when he joined the Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He earned his Ph.D. in physics from The Ohio State University and did computational research at Argonne National Laboratory for two years before joining the faculty at Michigan Tech. His mineralogical research interests include graphite, molybdenite, tungstenite, and unusual crystal morphologies.
(Bio and photo provided by John Jaszczak, Ph.D.)

Wurtzite By Sheryl Sims

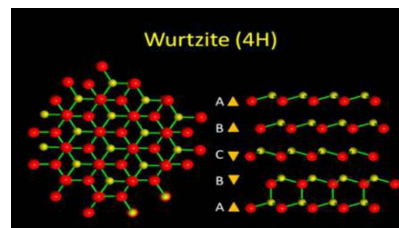
As explained by Dr. Jaszczak, speaker at the Atlantic Micromounters Conference that I attended on Saturday, April 28, *wurtzite* is a mineral that is often overlooked, and rarely seen in mineral collections. However, it is a beautiful mineral, as seen in the photos that follow. Orange-brown in color, wurtzite may also be found in the following colors: brownish black, reddish brown, and black. Wurtzite, a zinc iron sulfide ((Zn,Fe)S), is associated with sphalerite.[1]



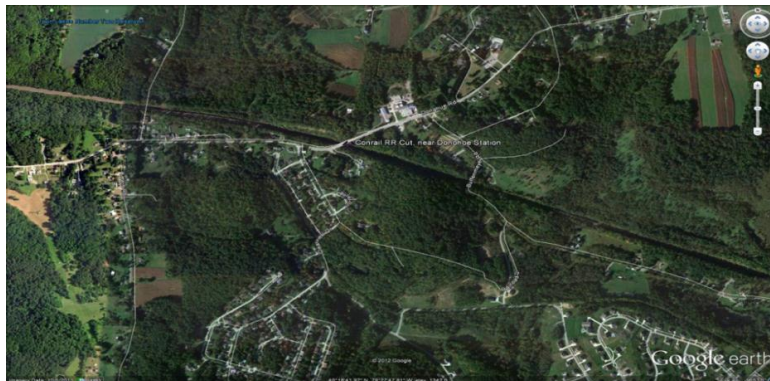
Wurtzite was named after French chemist Charles-Adolphe Wurtz.[2] It was first found in the San José Mine, in Bolivia, and can also be found in Europe and Canada. [3] In the United States, wurtzite has been found in such places as Connecticut, Montana, Utah and Missouri. In regard to the wurtzite crystal structure, Dr. Jaszczak explained that the structure is a member of the hexagonal crystal system and consists of tetrahedrally coordinated zinc and sulfur atoms. The atoms are stacked in an ABABAB pattern. "The unit cell parameters of wurtzite are (2H polytype)." [4]

References:

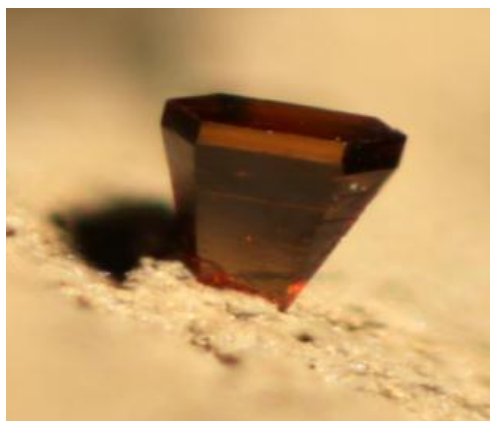
1. Handbook of Mineralogy, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wurtzite>
2. Wurtzite at Mindat.org
3. Wurtzite at Webmineral
4. Palache, Charles, Harry Berman & Clifford Frondel (1944), *The System of Mineralogy of James Dwight Dana and Edward Salisbury Dana*, Yale University 1837-1892, Volume I: Elements, Sulfides, Sulfosalts, Oxides. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York. 7th edition.
5. Wurtzite at Mindat.org



Wurtzite from Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio



Google earth image of the Donohoe Station area, east of Greensburg, Pennsylvania (provided by John Jaszczak).



(left)Wurtzite crystal (~0.3 mm tall) in an ironstone concretion, exposed from enclosing calcite. Donohoe Station, Pennsylvania. John Jaszczak collection and photo. (right) Wurtzite crystals of various hexagonal and trigonal polytypes in an ironstone concretion, exposed from enclosing calcite. (~2 mm field of view.) Donohoe Station, Pennsylvania. John Jaszczak collection and photo.

Views of the crystal structure of the 4H polytype of wurtzite. The view on the left is down the c-axis and shows the hexagonal symmetry. The view on the right is perpendicular to the c-axis and shows the stacking arrangement of the ZnS layers in a repeating ...ABCB... sequence.

Conference provided by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month at The Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington, Virginia
Time: 7:30 to 10:00 pm

At Last! MSDC Members Have a Close Encounter with the Lorton Meteorite

By Sheryl Sims

(photos by: S. Sims)



Like a planetary body making its orbit around the sun, I, too, feel as though I have finally come full circle. In what seems like ages ago, I made a failed attempt to see the Lorton meteorite the day after it fell through the roof of Dr.

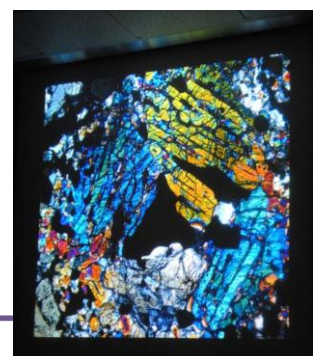
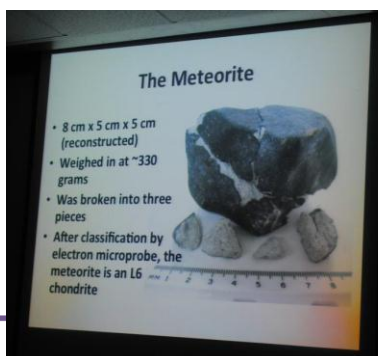
Gallini's office. I read about it, watched numerous news accounts about the incident, and, on several occasions, even wrote about my desire to see, the Lorton meteorite.

After what seemed like a nightmare of missed meteoric opportunities, my dream of seeing the meteorite was finally realized. On May 2, Dr. Cari Corrigan, met with members of the MSDC and gave a presentation on meteorites. More importantly, she talked about the Lorton meteorite! That, alone, was enough to entice me to hang around three hours after work to attend the meeting. However, the fact that Dr. Corrigan actually brought the Lorton Meteorite with her for us to see was a thrill of meteoric proportions! Dr. Corrigan went on to explain the importance of meteorites being studied to help us, not only learn how our solar system was formed, but how the earth was formed.



Lorton Meteorite statistics. (Slides provided by Dr. Cari Corrigan) Section of the Lorton Meteorite

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THE MINERAL NEWSLETTER



American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

(AFMS)

www.amfed.org



Eastern Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary
Societies

(EFMLS)

www.amfed.org/efmls

AFMS/MWF Combined Show

A Celebration of Agates

Minnetonka, Minnesota

July 26 - 29, 2012

By Sandy Fuller, Convention Chair

Agates, agates, agates! Almost every area has some type of local agate; a distinctly banded chalcedony quartz.

This July, agate enthusiasts and novices are gathering at A Celebration of Agates, an international symposium and show in Minnetonka MN. The event is being held in conjunction with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual convention

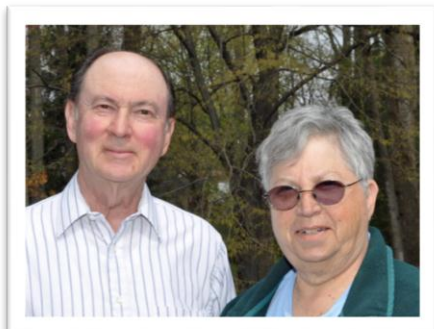
AFMS Scholarship Honorees Announced

by Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

It's my pleasure to introduce you to the AFMS Scholarship Honorees for 2012. You will know many of these names. This year, except for one regional federation, all the honorees are rockhounds and known throughout the U.S. for their activities within the rockhound community.

Eastern: Carolyn and Steve Weinberger

Known for their work both at the EFMLS and AFMS. Steve is a Past President of EFMLS, and AFMS. Carolyn has been editor of EFMLS and AFMS for centuries.... and are also involved in the famous EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres.



Communication and Involvement
Are the Keys to Our Success!

Geology Events:

By Matt Charsky

Sept. 3 – 9, 2012 Speaker – Julian Gray

Complete descriptions of all classes can be found on the EFMLS website
<www.amfed.org/efmls>.

Just click on the Wildacres tab. Tuition for the entire week is a mere \$350!



EFMLS Annual Convention
Theme: Crystals—"Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom"

September 14-16, 2012

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.

www.rockandmineral.org

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org)

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Greeter/Door Prizes: Ty Meredith
twhtknig@aol.com
Refreshments: Karen Lewis

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club

You can send your Newsletter articles to:

Or via email: news.nvmc@gmail.com

Visitors are Always Welcome at our Club Meetings.

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

SEND YOUR DUES TO:

**Rick Reiber
Treasurer, NVMC
PO Box 9851
Alexandria, VA 22304**

OR

**Bring your dues to the
meeting**

Purpose: To promote, educate and encourage interest in geology, mineralogy, lapidary arts and related sciences. The society is a member of Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) <http://www.amfed.org/efmls> and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://www.amfed.org>.

Dues: Due by 1 January of each year; \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family, and \$6.00 Junior (under 16, sponsored by an adult member).

Meetings are held at 7:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except

May and December*) at [Long Branch Nature Center](#), 625 Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204. Phone (703) 228-6535. (No meeting in July & August.)

(* Changes announced in the newsletter.) Snow schedule - Arlington county schools.