

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Cynthia Payne

Inducted in 2006



A founding member of the Micromounters of the National Capital Area (MNCA), Cynthia has contributed much to the field of micromounting. During the 37-year history of the MNCA, she has served in a variety of capacities – President, Vice President, Field trip Chair, Exhibits Chair, and others. She also was the Speaker Chair for the Atlantic Micromounters Conference in the period 1976–1990. Meetings of the group were held in her home from 1972 until 1990 when the group, in large part through her nurturing, outgrew the space.

From 1980–1986 and again in 1991, Cynthia taught a micromounters class at the Eastern Federation’s Wildacres Workshop at Little Switzerland, NC. She arrived with her car packed with extra microscopes, supplies, and boxes and boxes of material for her students to use, and was an outstanding instructor who often had a waiting list for her class. Cynthia has also been a fixture at many of the MNCA’s demonstration outings to local malls and area shows, where she enthusiastically encourages the public to “Take a look through my microscope!”

Cynthia served as a Museum Technician in the Mineral Sciences section of the Smithsonian Institution from 1979—1984 and as a volunteer in the same section for at least 10 years. Her co-authored article titled “Magnesioaxinite from Luning, Nevada, and Some Nomenclature Designations for the Axinite Group” was published in the February 1980 issue of the Mineralogical Record.

Cynthia has also won several trophies for her competitive displays at various EFMLS conventions. She frequently contributes specimens from her large collection to the Annual MNCA auction and to the Baltimore Mineral Society auction.

Cynthia Payne has earned her right to membership in the Micromounters’ Hall of Fame.