

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Betsy Martin

Inducted in 2017



An art teacher by profession, Betsy Martin has also been a micromounter and mineral researcher for more than 30 years. During that time, she has not only contributed award-winning articles to many publications with both hobby and professional status, but also co-founded a special interest group that meets monthly for the study of microminerals. Her efforts in that regard, which include provision of the meeting venue, tools, supplies, micromount material, and personal instruction, have brought many newcomers into the hobby.

A life member of the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society, in which she has held several executive positions, Betsy is also a long-time member of the Micromounters of the National Capital Area and the Virginia Independent Prospectors. Her work for others in those organizations has run the gamut from digitizing club archives to working on program preparation and providing photomicrographic services. She has also acted as Safety Chairman for the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. She has been indefatigable in her labors, not the least of which has been more than ten years as a micromount dealer, acquiring, refurbishing, and redistributing old collections to provide specimens to aid others in developing their own collections.

Perhaps her most intense work, occupying more than 25 years, has been her research into the mineralogy and development of the Morefield mine, Amelia County, Virginia. She has published detailed descriptions of the mine and its minerals, spent many hours in sample preparation and documentation for testing, and carried out the photomicrography and digitizing work required in maintaining the historical record. Her efforts have earned her co-authorship in publications in a number of professional journals.

In doing so much for others over the years, Betsy Martin has clearly established her right to a place in the Micromounters' Hall of Fame.