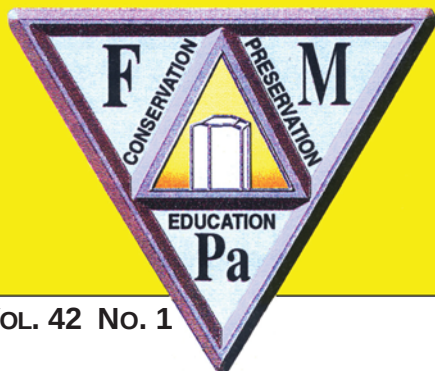




FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 No. 1

SPRING 2014



Joe Marchesani Named New President

In March, following the call for volunteers in the January newsletter, the chapter's Board of Directors elected Joe Marchesani as our new President.

Joe grew up in Concordville, Pennsylvania, and sold stream garnets to the local golfers and their wives for \$5 a 35mm film canister while other kids cut lawns. This led to an interest in minerals. Joe currently lives in New Jersey and is employed as a hydrogeologist by the State of New Jersey. Joe has a bachelor's in Geology from WCU and masters in Environmental Science from NJIT. His favorite collecting spots are Cornwall, Pennsylvania, and the Sterling Mine dumps, New Jersey (see article on page 3).

Joe reports that the "Presidential Plan" is to follow the Arnold model with a spring trip and fall trip and symposium, and to keep the Pennsylvania Chapter running smoothly. Any modifications will be with board consent. As an ambition, it would be nice to bring in more members to the meetings. ❄

SAVE THE DATE

FM-PA FALL SYMPOSIUM
and FIELD TRIP
NOVEMBER 1 - 2, 2014

Board of Directors Meets to Plan the Year's Activities

A Board meeting was held on Saturday, April 12, in Downingtown, Pa. (see photo below). Many aspects of the chapter's activities were discussed. At the time of this writing in April, follow-up work is being done by the meeting attendees and others including past president Arnold Mogel.

The fall symposium is the chapter's biggest event, and was the topic of much of the discussion. Many prospects for speakers were raised, and will be further explored. Funding from national FM, possibly to reimburse travel for a keynote speaker, will be investigated. Additional publicity encouraging professional geologists to attend and receive professional development hours (PDH) will be provided.

continued on page 2



Attending the April 12th Board meeting were, left to right: Bill Kochanov, Joe Marchesani, Ron Sloto, Dave Glick.

Board Meeting *continued from page 1*

Increased student participation in the chapter and symposium is desired; student fees will be set low to encourage this. Students doing research might be good speakers for our symposium.

Locations for a spring field trip, and other possible field trips, are being actively investigated. Cornwall, Pa., sites are reported to be available for the November symposium trip. **If you have ideas for field trips or symposium speakers, please contact Joe Marchesani** (see p. 4). One benefit for speakers is free admission to the symposium.

The next Board meeting is being planned for July 19, 2104. *-Editor*

120 Years Ago in The Mineral Collector

The June 1894 issue, the magazine's fourth issue, includes reports from the March and April 1894 meetings of the Students' Mineralogical Club of Philadelphia.

The March 15th meeting "had an open talk on the localities within a radius of 50 miles of Philadelphia..."

At the March 29th meeting, "Mr. Borden reported visits to several localities, he had procured quartz showing cleavage in three directions from near Black Horse; at 44th and Walnut Streets, tourmaline, one specimen a cluster, a crystal of which was about 5 in. Long; at Avondale, orthoclase; at Swarthmore, chrysocolla; at DeShong's, grossularite; near Manoa on Darby Creek, apatite, small crystals in orthoclase; with the exception of 44th and Walnut Streets, these localities are all in Delaware County, Pa."

At the April 12th meeting, "Mr. Hirlemans reported another trip to 27th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, he found three garnets, about ½ inch in diameter of quite good color, also another tourmaline showing terminal planes."

On April 26th, "by special invitation the club met at home of Mr. E.C. Atkinson to view his large collection, comprising about 2,000 specimens of minerals and 300 cut gems, many of which were on exhibition at the World's Fair and Paris Exposition..." *-Editor*

Rockhounding New York Book from Symposium Speaker Robert Beard

Geologist Robert Beard, author of *Rockhounding Pennsylvania and New Jersey* (2013), spoke at our 2103 symposium. Part of his presentation was based on the fieldwork and drafts of his next book, *Rockhounding New York*. It was published in early 2014 by FalconGuides and is now available from retailers. *-Editor*

Recently in PA Geology Magazine

The Pennsylvania Geological Survey's magazine is now available on the survey web site. From the home page at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/index.aspx> click on "Publications and Digital Data" in the left sidebar. Each issue includes an editorial and introduces new Survey employees.

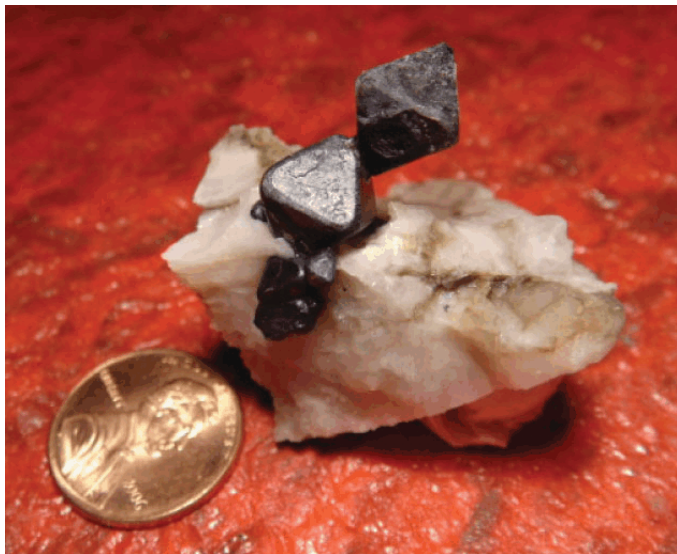
The Summer 2013 issue (v 43 no 2) includes "Reflections on *Phacops rana* (Green), Pennsylvania's State Fossil," with thoughts on trilobites and interesting, representative or important animal and plant fossils found in the state.

The Fall 2013 issue (vol. 43, no. 3) begins with an extensive, illustrated article on Pennsylvania meteorites by Mark A. Brown. Noted under Recent Publications is a Survey web site on "30 Outstanding Geological Features of Pennsylvania," with photographs and maps, at maps.dcnr.pa.gov/storymaps/geologic.html.

The Winter issue for 2013 (Vol. 44, no. 4) includes a well-illustrated article on "Shippensburg Geology Field Trip at the 2013 National Speleological Society Convention," which was led by Katherine W. Schmid of the Pennsylvania Survey and Thomas Feeney of Shippensburg University. A "mystery rock" from Centre County had been illustrated in the Summer issue with a call for comments on its possible formation. It shows loose rounded fragments within a network of holes in the surrounding rock. The conclusion in this issue is that the network arose from intersection of bedding planes and multiple fractures; additional cementation was introduced along these planes, making them more resistant to later weathering. The original sandstone between them weathered first into the rounded fragments and then weathered completely away, leaving empty holes in some cases. *-Editor*

An Exceptional Twinned Franklinite Crystal Specimen

by Joe Marchesani



Twinned franklinite (spinel group, ZnFe_2O_4) on light pink rhodochrosite (MnCO_3).

This specimen of twinned franklinite (ZnFe_2O_4) on light pink rhodochrosite (MnCO_3) was collected in 2013 from the Passaic Pit, Sterling Hill Mine, New Jersey. Twinned along {111}?. Minor amounts of willemite and meionite are present, as seen by fluorescence. Unofficially, franklinite is the State Mineral of New Jersey (actually a toss-up between this and prehnite... but you can get prehnite anywhere).

This is a very, very nice specimen! An excellent example of franklinite twins or "paired growth." An interesting visual aspect of this specimen is how the top franklinite spinel crystal seems to "Helix" or rotate slightly from the bottom piece. This is not entirely incomprehensible when one thinks about it. The specimen is also only slightly magnetic when a rare earth element magnet M52 (very strong magnet) is touched to it. This indicates that the specimen has a high zinc:iron ratio (mostly zinc and little iron).

A specimen like this is rare indeed. Over six months of tedious preparation went into getting this level of quality and detail. The franklinite spinel crystals in this specimen are equant, and **NOT** distorted or rounded. There is no patching. The specimen has not been "repaired." The specimen is not a fake. There is nothing disguised or anything

that needs to be disguised in this specimen. It is as real as it gets. I have not seen a franklinite twinned spinel specimen with this level of quality and detail from this site or any site worldwide ... ever.

Some questions and answers from previous publication in the Delaware Mineralogical Society's Geogram:

Who found it?- A: I did.

Who prepped it?- A: I did.

What is the story?- A: We - Donna Miller of Delaware Mineralogical Society and myself - were just about to leave. We were packed up... the hammer was simply dropped on a rock while walking out and these franklinite spinels popped out. We stayed longer. ❄

Mineralogical Record Materials Online

Axis, an eclectic journal of mineralogy available at <http://www.minrec.org/journal.asp> has one new article for 2014, on crocoite in Tasmania (from a 2012 Min. Rec. issue). There's a Glossary of Obsolete Mineral Names series, posted in 2012.

What's New in the Mineral World? found at <http://www.minrec.org/whatsnew.asp> is a series of reports by Thomas P. Moore providing information from shows, web sites and more. Illustrated with excellent specimen photographs, the most recent report is dated April, 2014.

-Editor

60 Years Ago in Rocks & Minerals

The March-April 1954 issue includes part II of *Pegmatite Minerals of the United States* by David M. Seaman, covering uranium and thorium oxides and others. Columbite is noted "from Mineral Hill and Boothwyn, Delaware County, Pennsylvania," and euxenite "at Morton, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, in fine crystals." There are articles on The Geology of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, by Richmond E. Meyers, geologist of Penna. Water & Power Co., Lancaster, Pa.; *Why New Jersey is a Happy Hunting Ground for the Mineral Collector*, by Meredith E. Johnson, State Geologist of New Jersey (a paper delivered at the 1953 EFMLS convention at Paterson NJ), and *Franklin, New Jersey: Still a Collector's Dream*.

-Editor

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! **Please provide materials for the next issue by June 1, 2014.** Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-237-1094 days and evenings (especially Thurs-Sat., otherwise leave a message).

Materials related to Pennsylvania mineralogy, collecting or collectors are invited for this newsletter: articles, long or short; announcements from FM-PA committees; photographs of specimens, field localities, collections, etc.; reports about books or articles published about PA minerals or by PA authors, or actual book reviews; or other items within the mineralogy and mineral collecting areas of interest. Photographs should be of good resolution (1000 pixels across) without much JPEG compression, so that they will look good in print. Please provide captions including photographers' names.

We are producing four issues each year; **your material is needed** to make them worthwhile!. If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

DONATIONS WELCOMED

The FM-PA Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are gratefully accepted and may be deducted from your federal income tax. Donations of any size help to offset the general operating costs of the Society, helping to keep dues low.

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA web site at
www.rasloto.com/FM/

National News

National FM newsletters, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site:
www.friendsofmineralogy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26-27, 2014: Monongahela Rockhounds Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. West Mifflin Vol. Fire Co. #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, West Mifflin (Pittsburgh), PA 15122. Sat. 10:00 - 6:00. Sun. 10:00 - 4:00. Free Admission & parking. www.monongahelarockhounds.org

April 26-27, 2014: 42nd Annual NJESA Gem & Mineral Show (plus outdoor swap and sell), by New Jersey Earth Science Assn., Franklin-Ogdensburg Min. Soc. & Sterling Hill Mining Museum (NJ). Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave., Franklin, NJ. sterlinghillminingmuseum.org

May 3-4, 2014: 11th Ann. Show & Sale, by Mineral. Soc. NE PA. Oblates of St. Joseph, 1880 Hwy 315, Pittston PA

May 10, 2014: South Penn Spring Rock Swap, by Central Penn. & Franklin Cty Rock & Mineral Clubs. South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville, PA. Sat. 8-3.

May 17-18, 2014: World of Gems and Minerals, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61, Leesport PA. Sat 10-5, Sun. 10-4

June 5-6, 2014: Rock, Mineral & Fossil Yard Sale, by Tom Smith, 10 Roger Av., Shippensburg PA 17257, 2 mi. outside Shippensburg on Route 696, near Middle Spring. 100 flats of specimens. Thurs. and Fri. 8-7, OR by appointment, call 717-552-6554

June 7, 2014: Spring Minerafest - Mineral Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Ass'n. Macungie Mem. Park, Macungie, PA. Sat. 8:30-3.

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Directory of Officers

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Vice President	
Treasurer	Ron Sloto
Secretary	James D. Stauffer

Members can find Board
contact information in the
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receive directly.

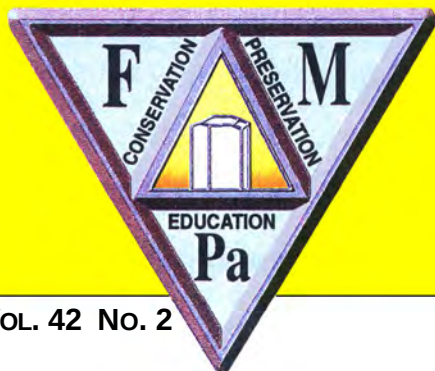
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William Kochanov
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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 No. 2

SUMMER 2014

Field Trips and More

By President
Joe Marchesani
and the Editor

As we've announced via e-mail and postcards, the Chapter's schedule has been filling up. First, we have two field trips; please **RSVP to President Joe Marchesani** (see p. 4) concerning those. Symposium planning is well underway.

June 28, 2014: Field trip to the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Perry Twp., Snyder Co., PA. The site is a great wavellite specimen locality, and also has calcite, strontianite, and maybe some quartz and fluorite. We will meet at the quarry office at 9:00 a.m. Kindly **RSVP** of attendance.

October, 2014 (date TBD): Brinton's Quarry, West Chester, Westtown Township, Chester Co., PA- This is the type locality for clinocllore but contains abundant serpentine group minerals, brucite, drusy quartz, and vermiculite. Exact date forthcoming shortly. Kindly **RSVP** of interest or attendance.

SYMPOSIUM November 1, and symposium Field Trip Nov. 2 to Cornwall, PA. We are seeking speakers; one benefit for speakers is free admission to the symposium.

Publicity: Ron Sloto (see p. 4) has 1/3 page flyers that you can print and distribute if you're going to a show, meeting, etc.

Vice President, Secretary Needed

James Stauffer has stepped down as our Secretary; the Chapter owes him thanks for his years of service. So, we are now seeking volunteers or nominations for both vice president and secretary. Both officers share in the general work of running the Chapter. The vice president also fills in for the president when necessary, and the secretary's duties include recording brief minutes of meetings. **Please help fill these important positions!** Field trip chair is another important position which we need to fill.

The next Board meeting is being planned for July; if you have any items to be brought before the Board, please contact President Joe Marchesani (see p. 4).
- Editor



Carnegie Museum of Natural History Acquires the Bryon Brookmyer Collection of Pennsylvania Minerals

**Museum's collection now most nearly complete
and comprehensive of Pennsylvania minerals in
the world**

Carnegie Museum of Natural History
press release May 2, 2014

Carnegie Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce the acquisition of more than 2,700 mineral specimens from private collector Bryon Brookmyer, making the museum's collection the premier repository of Pennsylvania minerals in the world. These specimens will aid researchers in the study of Pennsylvania mineralogy, and many will be featured in the museum's Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems.

All told, the Brookmyer collection consists of 2,705 specimens, 234 of which have been on long-term loan to the museum since 1996. Visitors may be familiar with some of these specimens as the focus of the Pennsylvanian exhibit of Hillman Hall.

"The acquisition of Bryon's collection is and will be known in the future as a major event in the history of Minerals at the museum," says Marc Wilson, Collection Manager and Head of the Section of Minerals. "Bryon's passion for Minerals is evident in his collection and in his history as a careful, yet tenacious, collector. We're honored that he should agree to have the specimens that are so special to him become part of the Carnegie collection."

Brookmyer's collection is the latest in three noteworthy specimen acquisitions that comprise the vast Pennsylvania collection, spanning pieces that were collected from colonial times to the present. Early in the museum's history, Andrew Carnegie purchased for Pittsburgh the William Jefferis collection of about 12,000 specimens. In 2007, Carnegie Museum of Natural History acquired approximately 5,000 mineral specimens deaccessioned by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Together, these two collections held specimens that covered to the 1920s. The Brookmyer collection brings the museum's holdings up to today.

Continued on page 3

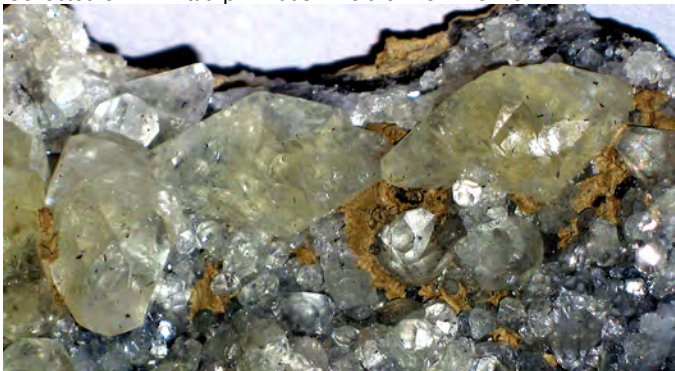
Mount Pleasant Mills, PA

by David Glick

Our Chapter will have a field trip to the National Limestone quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA, on June 28 (see p. 1). Depending on current quarrying activity, minerals to be found in the limestone quarry pit include calcite, strontianite, and occasionally celestine and fluorite. Wavellite and small quartz crystals are found on the property near the top of Lime Ridge, along with caxoxenite, planerite, turquoise, variscite, and vauxite (see <http://www.mindat.org/locdetailed-228894.html>). Shown below are some specimens collected in recent years. Photographs are by David Glick.



Strontianite crystal aggregates on calcite, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. Collected on FM-Pa trip in 2005. Field of view 1.5 inch.



Calcite, pale yellow transparent doubly terminated crystals on drusy gray crystals, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. Each crystal approx. 0.5 inch long.



Wavellite spheres of crystal aggregates, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA. Spheres 0.2 inch.

Brinton's Quarry

by David Glick

A field trip is being planned for October (date to be announced; see p.1) to Brinton's Quarry, southeast of West Chester in Westtown Township, Chester County, PA. Serpentine for building stone was the business of the quarry, which is the type locality for clinocllore, and the site of much historical collecting. History and minerals are covered by Sloto (2009), p.322-337 and plates 15-16. Geyer et al. (1976) list antigorite, brucite, chromite, magnesite, magnetite, and talc as the most abundant minerals from a total list of 34. Mindat <<http://www.mindat.org/locdetailed-8871.html>> provides some photographs and references.



Aragonite, Brinton's Quarry, Westtown Township, West Chester County, PA. West Chester University collection; Ron Sloto photograph.



Clinocllore, 5/8 inch, Brinton's Quarry, Westtown Township, Chester County, PA. Bryon Brookmyer collection; Ron Sloto photograph.



Deweylite, 4.5 inches, Brinton's Quarry, Westtown Township, Chester County, PA. West Chester University collection; Ron Sloto photograph.



Vermiculite, var. jeffersite, 2.5 inches, Brinton's Quarry, Westtown Township, Chester County, PA. Ron Sloto collection and photograph.

References

Geyer, A.R., Smith, R.C. II, and Barnes, J.H., 1976, Mineral collecting in Pennsylvania, 4th edition. Pennsylvania Topographic and Geological Survey, Fourth Series, General Geology Report 33, 260 p.

Sloto, R.A., 2009, Mines and Minerals of Chester County, Pennsylvania. 504 p.



Charlotte Smith 1930 - 2014

Past FM member Charlotte Smith died on May 19 at age 83. She lived outside Stormstown, PA (Port Matilda postal address) in Centre County. An extensive obituary appeared in the Centre Daily Times on May 21; see <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/centredaily/>



Charlotte Smith in 2007, helping present Nittany Mineralogical Society's annual Minerals Junior Education Day. A. Sicree photo

Along with her late husband Paul, she ran the family's dairy and beef farm, later including thoroughbred horses. She worked as a lab technician in the Department of Veterinary Science at Penn State for 20 years. She continued to enjoy keeping and riding horses, and helping others with animals, in her later years. Charlotte is survived by three daughters, two grandchildren, and other family. The obituary covers many more of her numerous activities.

Charlotte field collected minerals and fossils and shared her enthusiasm with members of the Nittany Valley Rock and Mineral Club (1970s), Nittany Mineralogical Society (founded 1994), and Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter. She helped organize and present club mineral shows, field trips, and Nittany Mineralogical Society's Minerals Junior Education Day in State College. -Editor

Carnegie / Brookmyer

Continued from page 1

"This gives Carnegie Museum of Natural History the most nearly complete and comprehensive collection of Pennsylvania mineral specimens in the world. Carnegie Museum is now the destination of choice for anyone wishing to research or learn about Pennsylvania's rich mineral heritage," says Wilson.

The Hillman Foundation generously underwrote the acquisition of both the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Brookmyer collections.

Pennsylvania Minerals

Pennsylvania's complex geologic history is reflected in the great variety of minerals found within the state. Nearly 300 mineral species are known from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's relatively rugged topography promotes exposure of rocks in naturally eroded cliffs as well as in cuts for roads and railroads, but the most significant mineral specimens have been found as a result of mining and quarrying activities.

The specimens displayed in Hillman Hall represent some of the finest found in Pennsylvania. In addition to the Pennsylvania Minerals & Gems exhibit, there are two cases of Pennsylvania minerals on display in Masterpiece Gallery. ❄

From the Editor

David Glick

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Sept. 13-14, 2014: Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show by Central Pa. Rock & Mineral Club, at Zembo Shrine Center, 3rd & Division Sts, Harrisburg, PA. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. <http://www.rockandmineral.org/annual%20show.htm>

October 4, 2014: Fall Mineralfest - Mineral Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Ass'n. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

November 1-2, 2014: Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter Symposium (Nov. 1, Lancaster, PA) and Field Trip (Nov. 2).

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National News

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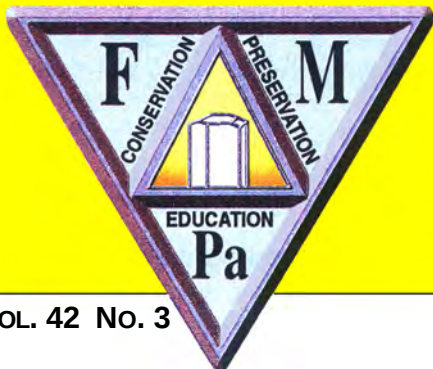
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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 No. 3

FALL 2014

President's Message

There have been three Board of Directors meetings in 2014, the latest of which was September 5 at the USGS office in Exton. Several issues have come up lately, and let's talk about them.

As reported in the last issue, Jim Stauffer resigned as secretary, with the Chapter's thanks for his years of service. This resignation shortens the board one position until filled. In addition, George Rambo has resigned his position on the board of directors, and we likewise owe him our thanks for his years of service to the Board and the Chapter. With the vice-president position already having been open, this means we are **seeking volunteers** for three positions; please contact me if you might be interested.

We have two great member events coming up shortly. The first is an **October 11th field trip to Brinton's Quarry**, an old serpentine quarry. Actually, it is the western-most portion of the quarry that is dry and full of tailings and talus. No scuba gear is needed. We will use a backhoe to unearth the hidden treasures. Should be lots of fun, and maybe we may see some pegmatite... maybe (can I say that?). If you have not yet provided your RSVP to me, please do so.

The second event is the **November 1st symposium** at Franklin and Marshall College which is also our annual membership meeting, and subsequent November 2nd field trip to Cornwall. This year's symposium theme is "Pennsylvania's Mineral Heritage." Every year we look forward to the symposium. There is still space left for a good presentation. Six presentations and six (6) CEU's is the goal this year, but we only have four (therefore 4 CEU's) so far. Anybody with a good idea for a presentation, please come forward with your abstract. The **November 2nd field trip** (for symposium registrants only) will be innovative, in that we are meeting up with the Delaware Mineralogical Society, whose kindness will allow for a dual site visit at a newer locale within the Cornwall dumps. In the morning, we will meet at the usual front gate location along Boyd Street probably around 9 a.m., and then a couple hours later change venue westerly to a location proximal to the Iron Valley Golf Club. Of course, this could always change so keep in touch, and visit the website frequently for the latest information.



And finally, if you have a good idea for a field trip, contact any board member and we will try to make it happen. We are always open to joint ventures with other clubs.

Financially, the club seems to be breaking even. Dues are consistent at \$20/person, \$15/student or those over 62 years old. There are currently 65 members in good standing of which 5 are life members. The symposium fee is currently \$15 for members, but may increase. New membership helps to keep the dues consistent. If you would like to sponsor a new member, complete the application form on the FM-PA website. Then come out to one of our events. Last year the symposium may have turned a \$50 profit, but that might be due to a speaker refusing a stipend.

Keep the chisel down.

Joseph Marchesani

OFFICIAL NOTICE

A brief Annual Meeting of the Membership, including elections, will be held at the Symposium on Nov. 1, 2014.

Please consider volunteering to stand for election to the Board - contact the President if you could do so.

Symposium Presentations Scheduled So Far:

Mining History of the Serpentinites, Pennsylvania and Maryland

Stephen Shank, Pennsylvania Geological Survey

Xenoliths of the Triassic Passaic Formation in the Monocacy Hill diabase intrusion, Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Robert Kulp, West Chester University

The French Creek Iron Mine - A Collector's Memories of a Lost Mineralogical Treasure

Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

The Fritz Island Mine, Cumru Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Ronald A. Sloto, U.S. Geological Survey



Vincent J. Matula, 1922-2014

Friends of Mineralogy Life Member Vince Matula, 92, of Walnutport passed away peacefully Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Lehigh Valley Hospital Muhlenberg. He is survived by his wife Margaret, three daughters and a son, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Margaret, for whom the mineral matulaite (discovered in 1977 in Northampton County) is named, is also a life member of FM. Vince and Marge would have celebrated 68 years of marriage on September 7th, and are well known as avid mineral collectors, and supporters of the mineral collecting interests of others, throughout the region.

Vincent had served in the 254th Military Police Company, Yukon Territory Alaska Defense Command, and worked at Electro Chemical Engineering & Manufacturing for many years. He was a charter member and past president of the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, and a life member of the Friends of Mineralogy.

FM-Pennsylvania Chapter extends its deepest condolences to Marge and the family. Remembrances may be submitted online at www.reichelfuneralhome.com and an obituary may be found by searching the "Obits" page there. Memorial contributions may be presented to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

- Editor

Jeanne L. Dague, 1948 - 2014

FM member Jeanne Dague, wife of Joe Dague, died at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA on August 20, 2014, following a prolonged illness. She had retired from her job at Valley Quarries in 2013, and was 66 years old. Joe and Jeanne's activities as long-time mineral dealers, collectors, donors, and advisors have supported mineral collectors in Pennsylvania and the region in many ways.

The obituary at www.obitsforlife.com reports that in addition to mineral collecting activities, Jeanne enjoyed miniature quilting and classical music. She is survived by husband Joe and two nieces, daughters of her late brother.

FM-Pennsylvania Chapter extends its deepest sympathies to Joe and the family. Contributions may be made in her name to Chambersburg Hospital, 112 North Seventh St., Chambersburg, PA 17201.

- Editor

Symposium: Specimen Donations Needed

A **giveaway table** is a long-time tradition at our symposia, but it has shrunk in recent years. Those specimens that are duplicates or surplus for you may be just what another collector is looking for. Please bring them!

We'll have a silent auction of **donated material** as usual; please bring your labeled specimens, books, tools, etc. for that. The proceeds help us to keep symposium fees low.

New this year will be a **50/50 silent auction** for some better specimens; we'll keep track of the source of each item and the donor will receive half of the sale price. Please bring these early to allow for the extra bookkeeping, and note a minimum bid amount if desired. Donors, buyers and the chapter will all benefit!

- Editor

Mount Pleasant Mills Field Trip

reports by Johnny Johnsson III and Elise Juers
and photographs by Stan Molchanow

Our Chapter enjoyed a field trip to the National Limestone quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA, on June 28. Some locality details can be seen on MinDat: www.mindat.org/locdetailed-228894.html

Johnny Johnson reports:

On sunny and bright Saturday, June 28th, about 15 FOM-PA members gathered at the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills for a day of collecting. Owner Eric Stahl gave us a safety talk in the quarry office, showed us examples of what we might find, and offered Bibles and books to anyone interested as he shared his testimony and how much he loves mineral collectors. We donned our safety gear and most of us headed up to the top of the hill to look for bright green wavellite in the brown sandstone. The sandstone in the tall bank was weathered and fractured and recent heavy rains had cleaned off some of the rocks. Looking for telltale signs of green we went to work looking for more vuggy material. Some large plates and superior specimens were found digging partway up the bank. There was plenty to share and go around so nobody left empty-handed. Some of these will clean up very nicely and reveal more of the striking green globules and sprays. Some micros and small quartz crystals were also recovered. All in all, a very nice day of collecting and not too hot was had by folks from both ends of the Commonwealth and beyond.

Collecting at MPM was excellent that day - both for wavellite and calcite crystals! Hats off to Eric for continually allowing collectors and clubs access to the quarry!

Elise Juers reports:

There were about 14 people for the quarry collecting trip. Mr. Stahl greeted us and showed us several specimens that came from the quarry. These specimens included calcite crystals, wavellite, strontianite, and variscite. Also shown to us were some fossils which included a cephalopod and a trilobite, the first found there. He also showed us some of the speleothem type specimens from his other quarry at Middleburg. These specimens included flowstone and a double stalagmite.

It was a beautiful day, sunny with blue skies, about 80 degrees with a breeze. Several members of the group started at the main pit looking for calcite crystals while others went immediately to the wavellite collecting area. The main pit consists of limestone of the Helderberg group which has evidence of folding and some minor



The main quarry pit at National Limestone 's Mount Pleasant Mills quarry. *S. Molchanow photo.*



Strontianite on calcite from main pit. *S. Molchanow photo.*

faulting. This is the area where one looks for calcite crystals and fluorite. The calcite crystals that were found during this trip were not large, but had good crystal structure and were relatively clear. One small vein of fluorite was also found. The other portion of the main pit area is a metamorphosed limestone. This rock is darker in color and has a shiny surface along the rock faces.

Eventually, most everyone made their way up the ridge to the upper strata wavellite collecting areas. The rock in this area is sandstone in which brachiopods are found within the matrix. They are not abundant, but still are relatively easy to find. Spiriferids and scallops were primarily what I noted. The sandstone is highly fractured and blocky. Pieces range from 6 inches across to about 16 inches and can readily be removed by hand. Red clay like soil is also present - sometimes hiding the

wavellite. The wavellite gives some of the rock a slight green color and occasionally vugs are seen which contain wavellite nodules. These veins that were seen on this trip were very narrow - only a few mm wide and difficult to split. Most of the wavellite found was in the form of BB sized nodules on the rock surface. The color ranged from clear to a yellow green to green. Some pieces found by Ed and Gene had small quartz crystals with balls of wavellite. Five or six people worked pit #1 along the right side of the road. Ed, Gene, and Elise found some nice specimens after some serious digging. The wavellite at this locality is unusual as it does not appear to be from a hydrothermal solution although some hydrothermal solution must have been present, but rather deposited as a secondary mineral from the leaching of phosphate from the marine fauna within the sandstone.

Other people were at the pits further up the road and atop the hill. I don't have a report on their results.

A Thank-You card was sent to Mr. Stahl by Elise on behalf of the Friends of Mineralogy.



Collecting wavellite in the fractured sandstone on the ridge. *J. Johnsson photo.*

FOR SALE: Long-time Pennsylvania collector John 'Pen' Ambler in Hollidaysburg has books, specimens and more for sale. Pen reports: "I have some 10 – 15 cartons of books on mineral and mineral related subjects. My cataloged collection consist of upwards of 6,000 specimens some of which were the Ed Carper collection. The specimens are cabinet, small cabinet, hand-sized, miniature, thumbnail and micro minerals. Many of the minerals are PA and eastern U.S.; however, it is a varied collection. There are lapidary materials (slabs and some bulk); limited fossils; tumbled stones including PA amethyst; UV materials and equipment; supplies (boxes, etc.)." Please contact Pen by email: bridger@atlanticbb.net

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! **Please provide materials for the next issue by December 1, 2014.** Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-237-1094 days and evenings (especially Thurs-Sat., otherwise leave a message).

Materials related to Pennsylvania mineralogy, collecting or collectors are invited for this newsletter: articles, long or short; announcements from FM-PA committees; photographs of specimens, field localities, collections, etc.; reports on publications about PA minerals or by PA authors, or actual book reviews; or other items within the mineralogy and mineral collecting areas of interest. Photographs should be of good resolution (1000 pixels across) without much JPEG compression, so that they will look good in print. Please provide captions including photographers' names.

We are producing four issues each year; **your material is needed** to make them worthwhile!. If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

DONATIONS WELCOMED

The FM-PA Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are gratefully accepted and may be deducted from your federal income tax. Donations of any size help to offset the general operating costs of the Society, helping to keep dues low.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 27-28, 2014: 58th Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Show, by Franklin - Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society & Franklin Mineral Museum. Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington Avenue, Franklin, NJ. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (indoors); 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (outdoor swap and sell). Also Garage Sale at Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Christiansen Pavilion, Sat & Sun 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - See more at: <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/visitor/schedule.php#events>

October 4, 2014: Fall Mineralfest - Mineral Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Ass'n. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA 8:30 - 3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

October 25, 2014: South Penn Fall Swap & Sale by Central Penn and Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs, at South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles west of Arendtsville, PA on route 234 (Address for GPS: 615 Narrows Rd, Biglerville, PA 17307). Adults \$1.00; Children free. 8:00 to 3:00. \$10 to set up, first come basis to set up. Located in covered pavilion. Food stand. Contact Tom Smith: tsmith1012@comcast.net

October 25, 2014: 25th Ultraviolation - Fluorescent-only Mineral Show / Swap / Sell, by Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, at First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd., Fairless Hills PA 19030. Sat. only, 9-4. See p. 6. www.mineralevents.com/flyers/2014ultraviolation.pdf

November 1-2, 2014: Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter Symposium (Nov. 1, Lancaster, PA) and Field Trip (Nov. 2). See p. 1&2. <http://www.rasloto.com/FM/>

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA web site at
www.rasloto.com/FM/

National News

National FM newsletters, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site:
www.friendsofmineralogy.org

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Directory of Officers**OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members**

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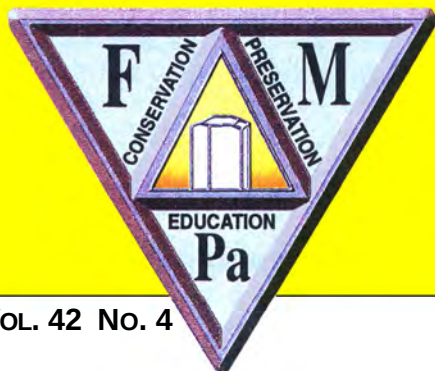
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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Pennsylvania Chapter

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 No. 4

WINTER 2014

Collectors Gather for Symposium and Field Trip

The Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter held its symposium, **Pennsylvania's Mineral Heritage**, at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. On November 1, 2014, we met in the Hackman Physical Sciences Laboratories. We were welcomed by our host, Dr. Stan Mertzman, professor of geosciences. Chapter President Joe Marchesani also welcomed the group and had some opening remarks.



Dr. Stan Mertzman



Joe Marchesani and Ron Sloto

Ron Sloto spoke about the history, geology, and mineralogy of **The Fritz Island Mine, Cumru Township, Berks County, Pa.** Worked for iron ore between 1846 and 1884 in a Cornwall-type

deposit, it produced 40 different mineral species. Some impressive display specimens were produced; Ron showed photographs of specimens in the collection of the Reading Public Museum. The site has been occupied by Reading's sewer plants since 1895; some remains of mine working were uncovered during sewer plant excavations through the years, but no trace of mines or dumps now remain.

Before the first break, Board member David Glick conducted the Annual Meeting of the membership, presenting brief reports, asking for volunteers to help

with Chapter activities, and providing brief backgrounds on two candidates for re-election to three-year terms on the Board. An election was conducted by printed ballot; the count showed that David Glick and Joseph Marchesani were elected.

Breaks in the program allowed attendees to visit invited specimen dealers, bid in the silent auction, pick up giveaway specimens, and meet other collectors.

Bill Stephens spoke on **The French Creek Iron Mine - A Collector's Memories of a Lost Mineralogical Treasure.** This is another Cornwall-type deposit, and another locality closed to collecting. Bill noted that he was one of many collectors who considered this a favorite collecting locality. He discussed the geology and mineralogy, showing a variety of specimen photos.

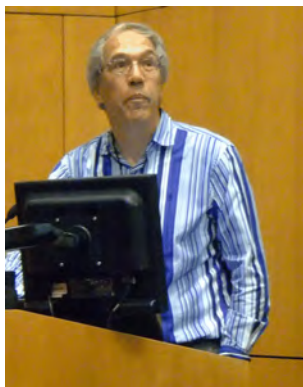


Bill Stephens

The silent auction and other activities in the break room continued over lunch hour. Attendees walked to restaurants on nearby Harrisburg Avenue for lunch. The silent auction ended before the presentations resumed in the afternoon.



Silent auctions, dealers and discussions in the break room.



Robert Kulp

Robert Kulp spoke on his Masters degree work on *Xenoliths of the Triassic Passaic Formation in the Monocacy Hill diabase intrusion, Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania*. He reported that the xenoliths are assimilated into the diabase to varying degrees, and illustrated this with field photos. He showed thin section photomicrographs of a variety of mineralogies.

Stephen Shank's presentation addressed the *Mining History of the Serpentinities, Pennsylvania and Maryland*. Different source rock chemistry, different metamorphic histories in different locations, and later hydrothermal alteration have produced a wide range of chemistry and mineralogy in the resulting serpentinites. The region was the largest producer and exporter of chromite in the world up to the mid-19th century. Magnesite, talc and soapstone, and green building stone were other important products, although the building stone was later found to deteriorate rapidly from urban air pollution.

The group met at Cornwall, Pennsylvania on November 2nd for collecting at two sites. - Editor



Morning collecting at Cornwall

Photographs
by David Glick



Later collecting from three huge benches of dump material behind the golf course

JOHN PASSANEAU 1949 - 2014

by David Glick

We are deeply saddened to report that our friend, avid mineral collector, FM-Pa member and Nittany Mineralogical Society founding member John Passaneau died October 16, 2014, in the hospital in Pittsburgh. After battling pulmonary fibrosis, he had received a lung transplant in the summer, but never recovered enough to leave intensive care.

John was born May 13, 1949 in Lansing, Michigan. He said he was a mineral hobbyist from the age of ten years, and later described his start on his mindat.org home page: "My interest in rock collecting started one warm summer day when friends and I were setting around doing the "what do you want to do?, I don't know, what do you want to do?" dance. As someone had just given me a copy of the Little Golden Book of mineral collecting, I suggested that we start rock collecting. We all did..." and John stuck with it for the rest of his life.

When John was young, he worked for mineral dealers at shows, earning some money to buy specimens, learning how to recognize the best specimens, and receiving good deals from dealers who enjoyed encouraging an enthusiastic young collector. He also participated in competitive displays of mineral specimens at shows, winning many prizes through the years, and he used those skills in his impressive home display cases as well. He always enjoyed finding a mineral specimen bargain at shows or on ebay, and was expert at trimming a specimen to retain only its best aspects, improving its appearance and value. Among his areas of specialization in mineral collecting were zeolites, quartz, twin crystals, fluorescent minerals, and micromounts. He was an excellent mineral photographer, recently making use of computerized digital focus-stacking techniques to produce photographs which were amazingly sharp from foreground to background, and then using optimization programs to print them in the best possible manner. He produced a series of posters as fundraisers for Nittany Mineralogical Society. He shared some of these "mineral portraits" on his web page at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/j/x/jxp16/>.



John with his newly constructed splitter, Mount Pleasant Mills, PA, 2005. D. Glick photo.

Another major interest was electronics and amateur radio. John liked to joke that his job description as an engineer in the Physics Department could be "I make toys for physicists." In reality, he worked on a variety of advanced projects, including anti-matter containment vessels, which he traveled to Europe to use. His skills allowed him to both design and assemble electronic circuit devices on the job, for his hobbies, and as a service to the community.

John held a range of offices in mineral clubs in Michigan. After moving to Pennsylvania, he set about connecting with the mineral collecting community; the club in State College at the time was more focused on lapidary. The 1993 symposium of the Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter, held at Penn State, brought local collectors together, and in 1994 John was one of the collecting enthusiasts who founded the Nittany Mineralogical Society. He was an enthusiastic officer and volunteer at the club's events, brought specimens to share and discuss in social hours, hosted the club's garage sale, visited schools and other groups to present programs about minerals to children, and much more. He always wanted to encourage people of all ages by including them in club activities and helping them personally. In recent years he was a member of Penn State's Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum Advisory Board, and created the control circuits for their present display of ultraviolet-fluorescent minerals.

John advocated planning for the continued use and enjoyment of one's collection by others. Details of the disposition of John's collection are being worked on at this time, and we will report them when they are known.

An obituary appeared in the Centre Daily Times (State College, PA) on Dec. 6. Memorial services will be conducted at The State College Evangelical Free Church, 1243 Blue Course Dr., State College PA 16801 on Saturday January 24, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. Donations in his memory may be made to the Nittany Amateur Radio Club or to Nittany Mineralogical Society.

- Editor

Rossville Site Closed to Collectors

from Jeri Jones

courtesy of Rock Buster News, Newsletter of the
Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Volume 54 No.10 December 2014

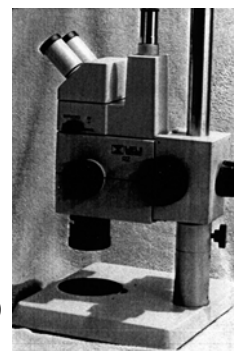
"I was notified by the property owner of the Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County that the site is now closed to collectors. The owners would appreciate that collecting cease. If anyone is seen at the site, the owners will notify proper authorities. Please pass the word, as this site has been collected since 1974. It is well advertised in books and articles. RJ Harris has added that the site has become dangerous."

FOR SALE: Long-time Pennsylvania collector John 'Pen' Ambler in Hollidaysburg has books, specimens and more for sale. Pen reports: "I have some 10 - 15 cartons of books on mineral and mineral related subjects. My cataloged collection consist of upwards of 6,000 specimens some of which were the Ed Carper collection. The specimens are cabinet, small cabinet, hand-sized, miniature, thumbnail and micro minerals. Many of the minerals are PA and eastern U.S.; however, it is a varied collection. There are lapidary materials (slabs and some bulk); limited fossils; tumbled stones including PA amethyst; UV materials and equipment; supplies (boxes, etc.)." Please contact Pen by email: bridger@atlanticbb.net

FOR SALE: Collection, Microscope & Accessories, Crystal Models - Avid collector wants these to be purchased by someone who would appreciate them. Contact Frank & Gail Beall, 724-789-7290. Western PA. **See much more complete listing** at www.nittanymineral.org/beall.pdf

Meiji RZ-B Trinocular Microscope

system: two 10x eyepieces plus zoom yield 7.5x to 75x viewing. Wide field. High stand, long focus. Equipped for photography with trinoc tube & photo "eyepieces" (included). Iris diaphragm to control depth of field. Separate Fiber-Lite brand FL-181 variable-intensity illuminator, halogen bulb and two flexible fiber-optic arms about 22" long with focusing lenses and filter holders. Cooling fan; anti-vibration table (over 100 lbs). Case, manuals, calibration slide, spare bulbs, etc. included. Exceptionally high quality scope, used for 1 project in 2004-5. Paid \$6,000 in 2004. ****Only reasonable offers, please.**** Still a bargain for the right person.



Mineral Specimens: High-quality specimens, many already sold. Those remaining include:

--Tetrahedrite, Zacatecas, Mexico, 5x4"

--Pyrite & marcasite, Idarado Mine, Ouray, Colo. Ex-Carnegie Museum display. 10.5x6"

--Mesolite, Nasik, India 2.75",

--Barite on quartz, Old Mines, MO.

--Tetrahedrite, Peru, paid \$350.

--Smoky quartz, amazonite, albite. Albany NH. 4.5x3"

--Andradite garnet, Calaveras County CA. 5.5x3.5"

--Elbaite (tourmaline) on albite Var, cleavelandite, Minas Gerais Brazil. Ex-Carnegie Museum. 9x3.5"

-- Quartz pseudo after barite, Ouray CO, Ex-Carnegie. 7x6"

--Calcite & strontianite, Winfield PA, 6.5x5", Ex-Carnegie.

--Rhodochrosite, quartz & tetrahedrite, Rob's Pocket, Sweet Home Mine, Alma CO. 3x2". 2014 appraisal \$2,300.

--Ruby, garnets, amethyst, selenite, apophyllite & stilbite, galena & calcite, others.

--Extensive life-long **collection of pyrite specimens**, many still available. A number of rare or unusual forms and from a variety of locations, a variety of sizes from thumbnail to several pounds. Stored sealed with desiccant.

--**General collection** of approx. 500 mineral specimens in plastic "keeper" boxes; some fossils and cave formations. Thumbnail to almost hand-size.

Variety of crystal models.

Scroll-sawed art replicating mineral specimens.



From the Editor

David Glick

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January 24, 2015: Mineral & Fossil Swap & Sell, by Phila. Mineralogical Soc. Cathedral Village, 600 East Cathedral Rd., Philadelphia PA 19128. Sat. 9-1
www.philamineralsociety.org

January 31, 2015: Rutgers Geology Museum Open House, Rutgers University Geology Museum and Scott Hall, New Brunswick, NJ. 9-4. See page 6, and <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museum-events/open-house> (Parking and additional information on web site)

March 7-8, 2015: Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Soc. Delaware Technical & Comm. College, 400 Stanton-Christiana Rd., Newark, DE <http://www.delminsociety.net/marchshow.htm>

March 27-29, 2015: EFMLS Convention and Show, Hickory, North Carolina. Field trips.

March 28-29, 2015: Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Phila. Mineral. Soc. & Delaware Valley Paleo. Soc. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA

March 28-29, 2015: Rock & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave., Athens PA.
<http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

April 18-19, 2015: North Museum Rock, Mineral & Fossil Show, by North Museum of Natural History & Science. Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster PA

May 2-3, 2015: Treasures of the Earth 2015, Annual Show & Sale by The Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Oblates of St. Joseph, 1880 Hwy 315, Pittston PA 18640. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA web site at
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National News

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