

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter 2024 Symposium & Show

by David Glick, FM-PA Secretary



UP-J Living Learning Center.

S. Lindberg photo

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown will once again be the venue for FM-PA's annual symposium for mineral collectors on Saturday, November 9, 2024. The second annual mineral, fossil and gem show will be in the next room with vendors selling a wide variety of Pennsylvania and world-wide items. A Sunday field trip is being arranged.

We will be seeking presentations on minerals from Pennsylvania and elsewhere, and related mining history, etc. The theme for the next national Symposium is green minerals, so we'll plan to include talks on that theme as well.

Our 2023 Symposium meeting was reviewed in the last issue.

FM-PA Board Notes

David Glick, FM-PA Secretary

The FM-PA Board of Directors is meeting monthly on Zoom. At the February meeting, the president reported on the FM national annual meeting and symposium (see page 5). An outreach project to university faculty and students in Pennsylvania and adjacent states is planned; any suggestions may be provided to David Glick (see page 12). Plans for the November symposium were reviewed; the venue (see above) is booked, and financial arrangements and support from the Geology Department, Geology Club, and UP-J should be similar to last year. The possibility of a mid-year picnic / get-together in southeastern Pennsylvania will be discussed by the Board in email.

Field Trips Coming!

Field trip season has begun! Our members were invited on a joint trip with Delaware Mineralogical Society to C&D Canal in late February. Members will be receiving announcements of field trips; watch for email from Field Trip Chair Ross Elliott.

-Editor

FM National News

The most recent national Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy <<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>> is from December, and includes many preliminaries for the February National Board of Directors Annual Meeting and the Tucson Mineral Symposium. Both of those events are covered in the Message from President Bill Stephens on page 5 of this Newsletter. Bill was at the Symposium and provided free livestreaming for all who signed up.

The web site includes the first announcement of the 2025 Tucson Mineral Symposium and Call for Papers <<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>> : 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium: Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds. It will be held at the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ. “The forty-third Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show[®], will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society[®], the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: “Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds.”

-Editor

James D. Stauffer

We have received the sad news that Jim Stauffer, a leader in our Chapter for decades, passed away in Lancaster. FM-PA extends our condolences to Mimi and the family. An obituary is not yet available as of this writing. If you can contribute any information or stories for a memorial article in the next issue, please contact the Editor (see page 12).

-Editor

Minerals of the Penn/MD Materials Quarry, Fulton Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Part 6

Ronald A. Sloto, P.G.
West Chester University

Photographs by the author

Introduction

The Penn/MD Materials quarry, owned and operated by the H&K Group, produces aggregate from ultramafic rocks of the Baltimore Mafic Complex, also known as the State Line Serpentinite District. This complex of ultramafic and associated gabbroic rocks is believed to be a remnant from the roots of an island arc complex formed about 490 to 510 million years ago (Smith and Barnes, 1998; Smith and Barnes, 2008).

All analyses were performed at the West Chester University Center for Microanalysis and Imaging, Research and Training (CMIRT). Imaging and chemical analyses were done using a ThermoScientific Apreo 2S LoVac scanning electron microscope (SEM) integrated with an Oxford AZtec X-ray energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS). Samples were unpolished and uncoated. A Bruker D2 Phaser powder X-ray diffractometer (XRD) was used to determine mineral species. All minerals listed below were confirmed by SEM-EDS or XRD analysis.

The author thanks Jay Lang and the H&K Group for access to the quarry and Rusty Ryan for providing the artinite and pyrite samples.

Serpentine Minerals

The three major serpentine minerals are antigorite, chrysotile, and lizardite. These minerals are polymorphs - they have the same chemical composition but have different crystal structures. They can be distinguished by XRD analysis; however, some varieties are distinctive enough that they can be visually identified.

Antigorite $\text{Mg}_3(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OH})_4$

Antigorite is the most commonly occurring serpentine mineral in the quarry (fig. 1). It can take many forms, and it ranges in color from light green to black. Two varieties that are easily identified are picrolite and williamsite. The picrolite variety (fig. 2) forms light to dark green, platy, fibrous, or columnar masses, sometimes curved or twisted, and often with interlayered magnesite and/or magnetite. Williamsite is the much sought after gem variety of antigorite. It is apple green, translucent, and often contains inclusions of magnetite, chromite, or other minerals. It can be cut and polished or carved. Williamsite was named in 1848 in honor of its discoverer, Lewis White Williams (1804-1873), a prominent mineralogist and geologist from West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Massive serpentine in the quarry is often coated with a light blue mineral (fig. 3), which is sometimes mistaken for nakauriite. A sample of serpentine with a thick coating of this blue mineral was collected for testing. It was carefully scrapped off, taking care not to scrape off any of the underlying matrix. An XRD analysis showed it to be antigorite.



Figure 1. Antigorite and magnetite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry, 9.6 cm. Sloto collection 4670.



Figure 2. Antigorite, var. picrolite, from the Penn/MD Materials quarry, 9 cm. Sloto collection 4273.

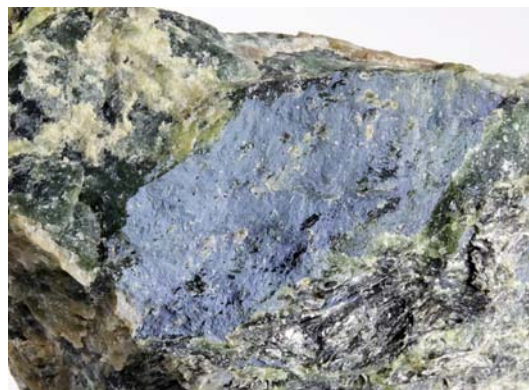


Figure 3. Blue antigorite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Field of view is 4 cm. Sloto collection 4188.

Chrysotile $\text{Mg}_3(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OH})_4$

Chrysotile is the fibrous form of serpentine. It is very rare in the quarry. It generally forms thin veins of hard to flexible fibers in massive serpentine (fig. 4).



Figure 4. Chrysotile from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Field of view is 3 cm. Sloto collection 4236.

Lizardite $\text{Mg}_3(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)(\text{OH})_4$

Lizardite is difficult to distinguish from antigorite. Twelve samples of serpentine representing different colors and textures were collected from the quarry. They were powdered, and an XRD analysis was run on each. Ten samples were antigorite, one was clinocllore (very fine-grained), and only one was lizardite (fig. 5). The sample is dark green, massive, slightly resinous, and has



Figure 5. Lizardite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry, 7 cm. Sloto collection 4665.

no characteristics to differentiate it from antigorite.

Other Minerals

Several other minerals, not previously described in this series, include albite, artinite, coalingite, pyrite, and native sulfur.

Albite $\text{Na}(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)$

The author has collected only two samples of albite in the quarry. Both were loose pieces without any associated minerals. The albite occurs as a grayish white, massive mineral with a sub-vitreous luster (fig. 6). It does not look like a feldspar. The albite fluoresces red under shortwave ultraviolet light. It was photographed using an 8-watt shortwave ultraviolet lamp.



Figure 6. Albite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry, 7.7 cm. Left, natural light. Right, shortwave ultraviolet light. Sloto collection 4252.

Artinite $\text{Mg}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Artinite is a carbonate mineral that occurs rarely as white, acicular crystals (fig. 7) on a magnesite matrix. SEM images (fig. 8) show the artinite crystals to be well formed and arranged in a somewhat radiating pattern.



Figure 7. Artinite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Field of view is 1 cm.



Figure 8. Scanning electron microscope image of artinite in figure 7 from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Magnification is approximately 240X.

Coalingite $\text{Mg}_{10}\text{Fe}_3^{+2}(\text{OH})_{24}[\text{CO}_3] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Coalingite is an uncommon carbonate mineral that is present as golden brown micaceous flakes (figs. 9 and 10). It occurs as small patches on antigorite. The author immediately recognized this mineral from having collected coalingite in the Hunting Hill serpentine quarry in Rockville, Maryland.



Figure 9. Coalingite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Field of view is 4.2 cm. Sloto collection 4629.

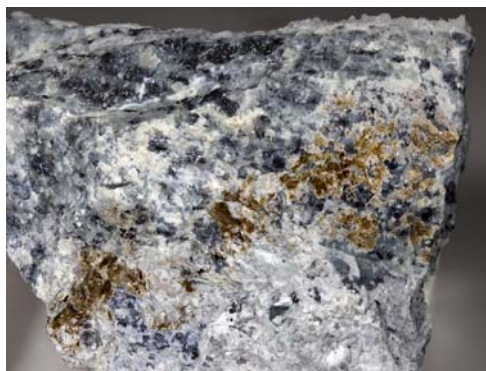


Figure 10. Coalingite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Field of view is 3.1 cm. Sloto collection 4590.

Pyrite FeS_2

Pyrite is rare. A sample provided by Rusty Ryan is composed of aggregates of anhedral to euhedral crystals with a slightly weathered appearance (fig. 11). Some cubic faces are discernable, and SEM images show small cubic crystals (fig. 12). The pyrite is associated with brown quartz and weathered serpentine, indicating that it likely originated in the upper part of the quarry.



Figure 11. Pyrite from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Left, 5 cm. Right, field of view is 2 cm.

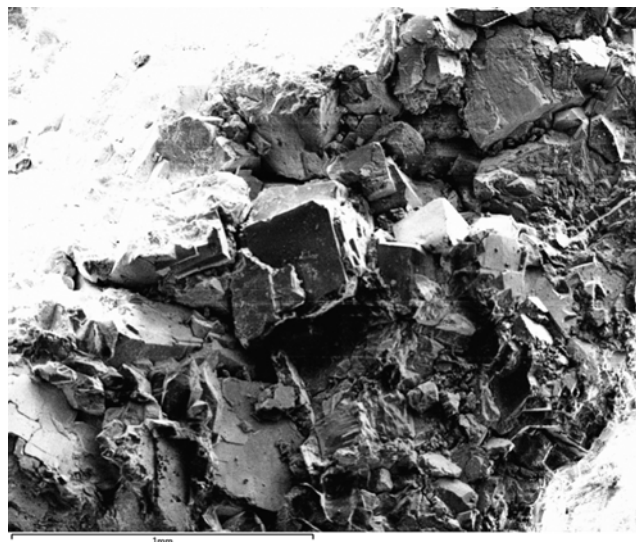


Figure 12. Scanning electron microscope image of pyrite crystals from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Magnification is approximately 160X.

Sulfur S

Patches of nearly pure sulfur (96.4 to 98.8 wt%) were detected on the surface of pyrite. They are not discernable by the naked eye or on SEM images (fig. 13). The sulfur likely was formed by weathering of the pyrite.

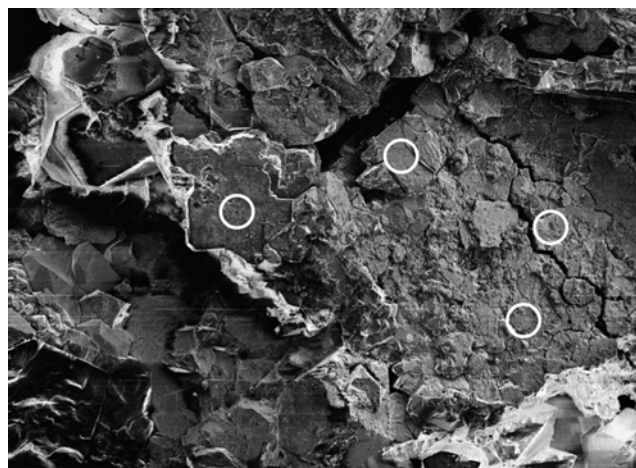


Figure 13. Scanning electron microscope image of sulfur on pyrite crystals from the Penn/MD Materials quarry. Circles show areas where native sulphur was detected. Magnification is approximately 400X.

REFERENCES

- Smith, R.C. II, and Barnes, J.H., 1998, Geology of Nottingham County Park: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., Trail of Geology 16-009.0, 41 p.
- Smith, R.C. II, and Barnes, J.H., 2008, Geology of the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens, Baltimore Mafic Complex, Pennsylvania: Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, v. 82, no. 1, p. 19-30.



TUCSON!! WOW!!

Message from
Bill Stephens, PG, President:

Friends of Mineralogy
Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA)
Friends of Mineralogy National
EFMLS

Photographs by the author



This year was perhaps the most eventful and lengthy trek for me personally, and so much happened it's just not possible to cover it all, but I can try. 😊

A lot of advance planning went into this year's travel plans, beginning with me renting a house in Star Valley, southwest Tucson, for February 1-11 and securing some roommates to share the rent. Tommy Greene (NJMC) and I left my house in Rising Sun, Maryland, January 24th in the early evening and headed for Albuquerque, New Mexico (driving our separate trucks), where we planned to hook up with our other roommates Mike and Bradley of the now famous "Two Guys One Hole" digging team. These guys spent six weeks last spring excavating a huge collapse breccia pocket lined floor to ceiling with light green, purple-tipped stepped cubic and eroded fluorite that looked like snow cones. They named the pocket the Ice Cream Igloo pocket and both it and they have become quite famous. The boys had offered to take us up to the Blanchard Mine, southeast of Socorro near the Trinity nuclear bomb test site, to dig fluorite for a few days.

So, we met them in Albuquerque and checked out what they had in storage (OMG!), got a hotel room for

the night, and met with them and the Blanchard Mine Claim holders Mike Sanders and Ray Demarc Saturday morning at Frontier Restaurant for breakfast. Food was great and Tommy and I collected ourselves shortly thereafter and headed to Socorro to check out the museum, after which we met at Allison's Rock Shop on the highway at the access road to the Blanchard Mine. I did not realize that it was so close to the Trinity nuclear bomb test site, and Allison had lots of photos, memorabilia, and trinitite in her shop.

It was quite a drive up to the mine from the valley floor to elevation 6400 feet above mean sea level, including having to shift some large boulders out of the roadway. Camping was quite primitive and after Mike and Bradley got us oriented, we dug the rest of the afternoon and the next three days. I basically slept in the truck as did the rest of the crew, and the altitude adjustment put some serious hurt on me, but neither Tommy nor I can complain, having secured a few hundred pounds of good fluorite specimens (photo below). We took off at sunset, driving down the treacherous mountain in the dark, stayed in the same hotel in Albuquerque, and headed for Tucson the next day. Look for a field trip report article on Blanchard and PowerPoint Zoom presentation later this year.



Specimen of blue and purple "Purple Fusion Tie-Dye" fluorite from the Dirt Pocket.



Blue fluorite cubes lining the walls of interconnected pockets, "Dirt Pocket", Blanchard Mine, NM.

We managed to get a room Wednesday night at the Days Inn, one of the old show locations, and I got up early and made the rounds Thursday morning. We visited Kyle at the Kino show and a few other friends. Checked in and unloaded Thursday night and the boys immediately started cleaning off every load-bearing piece of furniture to set up their Ice Cream Igloo pieces for private showings.

I checked out the Mineral City Show, 22nd Street, Kino, and the Fine Mineral Gallery during the week until the main Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS) opened. So many new connections and friends, fantastic mineral specimens. Mind boggling, information overload. It was great to see friends Wayne Schrimp and Tara Haymore, and we got some sushi one night at Ginza's. I met Lee Levesque and Wendy at El Charro's after they flew in, and we had a great dinner and some wicked good margaritas.



Vanadinite recently recovered by Roger from the North Geronimo Mine, Yuma AZ.



Gorgeous Wulfenite from Red Cloud Mine recently recovered from the underground workings by operator Roger.

I also took Lee Levesque and Wendy to the Red Cloud Mine for the day on Tuesday February 6 (see photos), which was a 4.5 hour drive out, 5 hours back. We had a great day digging and Roger (the mine operator) had some thumbnails I bought and some choice specimens he had mined in the previous two weeks (see photos).



Lee and Wendy exposing the top of the main vein in the open pit, Red Cloud Mine. Vein is largely fluorite and breccia fragments with galena and incidental wulfenite.

Some of you may be aware Lee hit two pockets at Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining in Sprakers, New York, last Memorial Day weekend and recovered what are arguably the largest skeletal, fenster Herkimer quartz crystals ever reported from the Herkimer district. You may have seen my PowerPoint presentation at the annual meeting of the EFMLS last July in Syracuse, New York. Daryll Powell and I co-authored a short booklet, well-illustrated, on his find. I helped him get connected with TGMS case chair Peter Megaw, and Lee had his very own case at the Tucson Show at the convention center. According to Gail Spann, even Jim Spann said "Wow" twice while gazing at his huge Herks. Mike and Bradley had two cases next to Lee.



Lee's case at the TGMS at the Convention Center in Tucson. The specimens from left to right weigh 7 lbs, 28.2 lbs (the largest known skeletal Herkimer) and 14.7 lbs, respectively. Mined at Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining, Memorial Day weekend 2023, by Lee Levesque, III.

The Friends of Mineralogy - National held its meeting (hybrid) at the Arkenstone facility in the Mineral City area on February 9, 2024. The topics and decisions from the meeting are included below. The new leadership was elected as follows:

President: Bill Stephens, PG (me)

Vice President: Nicole Childs

Treasurer: Jessica Robertson

Jeanine Mielecki will continue her second term as



At Red Cloud Mine, from left to right, Bill Stephens, PG, Lee Levesque and Roger with "One Ball Pete".

secretary. Erin Delventhal resigned her board position and all her volunteer duties, leaving a vacancy on the Board we subsequently filled with Andrew Eppig as noted below. Significant topics covered including addressing California administrative issues with the organization, including a physical address, which has been addressed, the new logo, and the operations manual revision team. See the Minutes for details.



Bradley, Tommy and Mike at the YMC event, Fine Mineral Gallery Courtyard.

I was invited by Tommy Greene to the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) meeting Friday night (see photos) and it was a well-attended event. Brisket was available as well as adult beverages in the courtyard at the Fine Mineral Gallery. Dr. John Rakovan, Mineralogist / Senior Mineral Museum Curator, New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, gave a well-received talk on Mosaic, Macro-Mosaic and Split Crystals. Our new VP, Nicole Childs, was also in attendance. The YMC is affiliated with FM and has many up and coming serious mineralists. YMC recently obtained their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in Texas.



YMC leadership, from right to left: Tama Higuchi (secretary), Lauren Marie Martin (Treasurer), Matthew Metzler (President) and Tomer Shapira (webmaster)



Rakovan at YMC delivering an excellent talk on "Mosaic, Macro-Mosaic and Split Crystals".

The symposium was held on Saturday (abstracts and bios of speakers available for download from the FM National website). The symposium theme, Pegmatites -

Crystals Big and Small, was one of the best attended ever. I'm certain we had 60 people in person for Dave London and Peter Lyckberg's talks. Most of the cases in the main show convention hall covered the theme as well.



Lee and I at his Herkimer case.

I had advertised the live streaming of this symposium in advance and specifically targeted professional geologists as our symposia at National as well as FM-PA are pre-approved in most states that have licensure for professional geologists (PGs). Erin



Peter Lyckberg's talk on Volyn chambered pegmatites was one of my favorites.

Delventhal created an online web form on our website for anyone who wanted register in advance to receive the Zoom invite. We had 96 registered including 14 PGs seeking the 6 CEUs, 33 in attendance including most of the PGs. I believe the email invite went into the junk folders of many that did not actually attend. Unfortunately, we did experience some significant technical difficulties, mainly with the screen image quality during the first half of the symposium, but we figured out how to correct it and will have a quality image next year. I have signed and sent out nearly a dozen certificates and hope to encourage more professionals as well as general audience participation next year.

The awards banquet was held from 6:00 p.m. after the Symposium and a lot of awards were given, too many for me to keep track. Mark Jacobson, immediate past president and symposium coordinator/chair, took "official photos" for the FM.



A shot from the awards banquet Saturday night after the symposium

I really enjoyed connecting with people and talking about collecting. Lee, Wendy, and I had lunch with Brian Busse of "Prospectors" fame, and he invited us to dig aqua at Mount Antero any time. I had lots of invites to dig all over the US and Australia. Maybe, someday... I always find it amazing how you can just bump into people you know at a colossal series of events that spans weeks with 45-50 independent shows at facilities all over the city. Almost like it's meant to be.



Fluorite from the "Ice Cream Igloo" pocket mined by Mike and Bradley of "Two Guys One Hole". The "Beast" featured in the photo in the upper center of the case weighs in at about 1300 lbs and is currently on display at the Museum in Socorro, NM.

Since the conclusion of the show(s), the National Board has been busy. We approved the appointment of Andrew "Rockhound" "Dirtman" Eppig, whom many of you know from his Dirtman Reports and service to the EFMLS, FM-PA as social media director, as 2nd VP at EFMLS, as well as president of Central Pennsylvania RMC. We anticipate Andrew will bring a lot to the operations manual update process for all three of these organizations and hope he will serve as a member of the outreach/public relations committee after the operations manual is updated and approved.

We approved the minutes from the annual meeting, available from the National office. We have also made a conscious decision to reconsider an alternative for the new logo, even though it was approved, as there were some issues with authorization of the new logo's use. So, it's back to the drawing board and the old logo for now. Work on the operations manual update has begun. Next year's symposium theme is on "green minerals". If you are interested in contributing an article to the newsletter, or in giving a presentation at the FM National or FMPA symposia, you can contact me directly or Mark Jacobson for the National symposium for 2025.

This year's FM-Pennsylvania Chapter Symposium will be held at Pitt Johnsonstown campus (UP-J) the weekend of November 9 and 10, 2024, and I anticipate delivering a presentation on the wavellite occurrence at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA. Wavellite is on the list of



More fluorite from the Blanchard, Hansonburg Mining District, Socorro County, NM. These specimens exemplify the drusy quartz coating over galena cubes so common in this pocket, as well as the stepped cubic habit of some of the more aesthetic fluorite balls.

green minerals for the FM National 2025 Symposium. I anticipate each symposium will be well attended, and each will likely be worth 6 CEUs for professionals. I am working on New York State and hope to have that state, as other states have, list us as preapproved before either symposium.

Stay tuned and happy hunting!



New Benefit for EFMLS Clubs!!!**Diamond Dan's
Mini Miners Monthly**

from EFMLS News Vol. 71, No. 3, March 2024

The EFMLS has added a new benefit for clubs. Darryl Powell, also known as Diamond Dan, is providing Eastern Federation members with his Mini Miners issues. This is a monthly PDF designed with your junior members in mind.

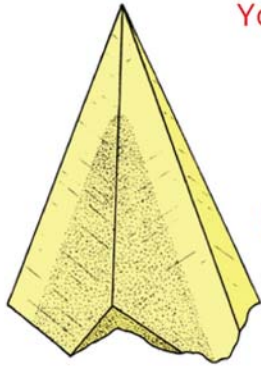
You may download the PDF from the EFMLS website:

<https://efmls.org/news/>
You may print copies to hand out at shows and other events, such as someone giving a presentation to a school earth sciences class. You may also e-mail it to members. Please, do not print copies for sale.

Editor's note:

The issues contain material for kids of various ages. There are lots of illustrations including those for coloring, completion, etc. There are also some gems pertinent to all ages, such as the page reprinted at right from the December 2023 issue.

TOP SIGNS YOU ARE A MINERAL COLLECTOR



Your Yahoo password is wulfenite, your Gmail password is malachite and your Facebook password is corundum.

You know the chemical formula for cavansite.

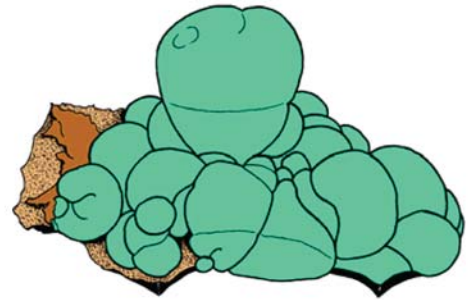
Words like "dodecahedral" and "jolly balance" actually make sense.

"Matrix" is not a movie title to you.

Your room is so full of specimens that you have to move your clothes in the garage.

Your garage is so full of specimens you have to move your clothes to the shed.

Your shed is so full of specimens . . . well, you get the idea.



You can find places like Tucson, Tsumeb and D'Almeida on a world map.

You will pay \$100 for a wulfenite specimen but you won't pay \$25 for lunch.

Your vacation is a waste of time if you don't come home with at least one specimen.



Your girlfriend is named Crystal or
Your boyfriend is named Rocky.

You know more than 10 mineral dealers by name . . . and they know your name, too.

You are disappointed to discover "The Phantom of the Opera" is not about crystals.

Mineral
Auctions.com



100+ items for auction weekly starting at \$10!

Mini Miners Monthly, December 2023. ©2023, Diamond Dan Publications



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter SYMPOSIUM November 9, 2024 Johnstown, PA FIELD TRIP November 10

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts - tentative plans include:

Friday evening Nov. 8: Meet & Greet - Talk about minerals and more!

Saturday Nov. 9: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology**

2nd Annual Mineral Show - Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation

Professional Geologists: Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

Sunday Nov. 10: Field Trip. Open only to symposium registrants.

Watch for details, registration form, changes and **UPDATES** on our **web site:**

www.rasloto.com/FM or **Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania** on Facebook

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!

**See "Join FM"
on the web site**

2024 EFMLS Convention & Hotel Information

from EFMLS News Volume 71, No. 3, March 2024

The 2024 EFMLS Convention is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, New Jersey, just down the road from Franklin. Rooms are available at a group discount rate about 30 minutes away at:

The Quality Inn

1691 Route 46

West Ledgewood, NJ 07853

Direct phone 973-347-5100

Please use ID code YDW35Q to get group rate of \$129 +tax, breakfast included. Check in Friday 6/7/24, meeting on 6/8/24 at the Sterling Hill Mine, check out on 6/9/24.

2024 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop

from <https://efmls.org/wildacres/>

The EFMLS will be sponsoring a workshop on a cool mountain-top setting near Little Switzerland in North Carolina. Offered at the sessions are classes in various facets of the earth sciences. Indulge your passion for minerals, gems, jewelry, and craft. Join entry and intermediate level short classes. Enjoy programs from our great Speakers-in-Residence. Form new friendships and deepen old ones.

Do it all at Wildacres, a beautiful retreat center atop the Blue Ridge Mountains. What could be better! The registration form is on the web site. -Editor



EFMLS / AFMS Federation News

FM-PA Chapter is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We encourage our readers to read the monthly newsletters available on their web sites.

The AFMS February Newsletter continues providing information on the May24-26 convention in Ventura, CA; see updates at <www.2024cfms-afms.com>. The PR Chair discusses using social media, and Historian Jennifer Haley seeks cartoons and poems from early editions of club newsletters, as well as stories of how rockhounds used their expertise to aid the war effort in WWII. Many Rockhounds of the Year are introduced. Also note that AFMS has a new web site, with new URLs for every page. The new home page is <<https://www.amfed.org/home>> and an old/new cross-reference list is available.

In the Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> February Newsletter, President Bill Stephens discusses the availability of Diamond Dan's Mini Miners Monthly to club members (see page 9 of this Newsletter), the Geology365 Presenter database, and the February 10 Tucson Mineral Symposium. For more on Diamond Dan, see page 9. -Editor

FM-PA seeks old Symposium Programs

FM-PA Chapter is seeking certain pre-2012 Symposium printed programs to complete our files and web site. The ones we have are on the web site

<https://rasloto.com/FM/symposium-programs-and-abstracts/>.

We are seeking: 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994, 1992, 1989, 1988, 1982, 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973.

Please contact Treasurer Ron Sloto (see p. 12) if you can provide any of these.

-Editor

DONATIONS WELCOMED

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

FOR SALE - 71 flats of various minerals - Pennsylvania, Western states (Oregon, Colorado, Utah), Fossils, German minerals, Quartz xls (various localities), Tennessee, New England, and more, at very reasonable prices! I've completed a 5-year re-organization of the collection and it's time to let the excess go: thumbnails to medium size specimens, all labeled as to location (I am a stickler to exact location!). The majority are \$5 and under with prices topping out at \$20, or mix and match for \$40 per flat. Gold specimens are all thumbnails - \$5 to \$40. Mineral List can be provided. The minerals are currently at my residence located 20 or so miles east of Pittsburgh. Contact Frank Lotito: (724) 840-2179 or flotito1@verizon.net.

FOR SALE: 50 year collection of the Mineralogical Record. Complete 1970-2019, includes all special issues. Must be picked up in Pottstown, PA. \$2,400. Contact rasloto@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Mar. 23-24, 2024: Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20). Sat. 10 am to 5 pm; Sun. 10 am to 4 pm. www.phillyrocks.org

Mar. 23-24, 2024: Gem & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road, Wysox, PA 18854. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

June 1, 2024: Spring Minerafest, by Penna. Earth Sciences Assoc. Macungie, PA. Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. <https://www.minerafest.com/>

April 13-14, 2024: 34th Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Midland Park High School, 150 Prospect Street, Midland, NJ. Saturday 10-5 / Sunday 10-4. <https://nj.show/>

April 27 2024: Spring Swap and Sell, by Franklin Mineral Museum. Mitchell Park (aka Franklin Boro Park), Cork Hill Road, Franklin, NJ. Sat. only, 9-5. <https://www.franklinmineralmuseum.org/event-list/>

April 27- 28, 2024: - Franklin Mineral Museum Mineral Sale, Mill Site Pile Dig, and Buckwheat Dump Night Dig in Franklin, NJ.

April 27-28, 2024: Annual Mineral & Fossil Sale at Sterling Hill Pavilion (AKA Sterling Hill Garage Sale) at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Sterling Hill, NJ.

May 4-5, 2024: Annual Gem & Mineral Show, by Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, 1880 Hwy 315, Yatesville, PA 18640 (just outside of Pittston, PA). Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://msnepa.org/events.html>

May 13-19, 2024: EFMLS annual Wildacres Workshop. See p. 10 and <https://efmls.org/wildacres/>

August 16-18, 2024: Gem Miner's Jubilee Gem & Jewelry show. Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, 80 Rocherty Road in Lebanon PA. Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-4. <https://www.gem-show.com/summer-show>

October 5, 2024: Fall Minerafest, by Penna. Earth Sciences Assoc. Macungie, PA. Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. <https://www.minerafest.com/>

Nov. 2- 3, 2024: Gemarama Annual Show, by Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. Saturday 10-6 / Sunday 10-5. <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

Nov. 9-10, 2024: Annual Symposium & Field Trip, by Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter. See p. 1.

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-810-2116 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the June issue should be submitted by **May 31**.

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 (at least 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! If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

OUR PURPOSE

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the The Friends of Mineralogy (FM) is an organization devoted to the advancement of serious interest in minerals and related activities through science and education. It includes mineral collectors, professional mineralogists, and curators of public and private collections. The bond uniting these people is a love of mineral specimens and a desire to spread appreciation and knowledge of minerals.

JOIN OUR CHAPTER!

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter invites mineral collectors, professional geologists and mineralogists, curators of public and private collections, professors, teachers, and students interested in mineralogy to join us. Benefits of membership include field trips, quarterly newsletter, our annual Symposium in November, other events, and contact with many advanced collectors. Through the Chapter, members are also part of the Friends of Mineralogy national organization, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues for the calendar year are \$20 (regular member), \$15 (student rate), \$15 (seniors over 62), \$25 (family). Please fill out a membership form available at <https://rasloto.com/FM/join-fm-pa/>

FM on the WWW

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

And the new Facebook page
(linked from the site above)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1099795867347595/>

National News

The Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site: www.friendsofmineralogy.org

We are now a member club of EFMLS:

<https://efmls.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>

Shows & Events

<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

official address:

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter

PO Box 13, Saint Peters PA 19470

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

President	Bill Stephens
Vice President	Dianne Soccio
Treasurer	Ron Sloto
Secretary	David Glick
	Mike Dunton
	Andrew Eppig
	William Kochanov
	Mark Sigouin

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Members can find contact information in the Newsletter edition which they receive directly.

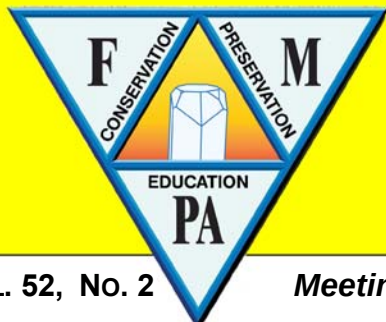
COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair	Ron Sloto
Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott
Web Manager	Ron Sloto
Newsletter Editor	David Glick

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(814) 810-2116

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Web Site: <http://www.rasloto.com/FM>



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER



VOL. 52, No. 2

Meeting annually at our Symposium: Johnstown, PA

JUNE, 2024

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter 2024 Symposium & Show Theme: Green Pennsylvania Minerals

by David Glick

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown will once again be the venue for FM-PA's annual symposium for mineral collectors on Saturday, November 9, 2024. The second annual mineral, fossil and gem show will be in the next room with vendors selling a wide variety of Pennsylvania and world-wide items. A Sunday (Nov. 10) field trip is being arranged for Mount Pleasant Mills, PA..

The theme for the next FM national Symposium (February 2025) will be Shades of Green: From Apatites to Zeunerites – More Than Just Emeralds (see pages 4-5). FM-PA plans to echo that theme at our 2024 Pennsylvania Symposium; talks on pyromorphite, beryl and wavellite are in the works. If you can make a presentation on another green mineral from Pennsylvania, or elsewhere, or related mining history, etc., please contact President Bill Stephens (see page 6).

Please see (and print and distribute!) the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Photographs by David Glick



Beryl, Wagontown, Chester County, PA. 195mm (repaired).



Picrolite, Cedar Hill Quarry, Lancaster County, PA. 165 mm.



Prehnite, Silver Hill Quarry, Lancaster County, PA. 80mm.



Chalcocite and malachite, Pine Mountain, Adams County, PA. 105mm.



Pyromorphite, Phoenix Mine, Chester County, PA. 60mm.

Treasurer Transfer & Board News

David Glick

After a dozen years of service as Treasurer of our Chapter, Ron Sloto has stepped down. Thanks go to Ron for fulfilling the many and varied duties of Treasurer for those many years. The Board has now elected David Glick as Treasurer. Ron and Dave have been busy transferring the **numerous** bits and pieces and moving parts of the Treasurer's responsibilities, and are just about finished.

Dave stepped down as Secretary in order to facilitate that change, and the Board elected Mark Sigouin as Secretary. Thanks go to Mark for taking over.

Prior to this, Ron had passed the Membership Chair duties to Dianne Soccio. Dave and Dianne will be deciding how to share duties related to membership payments, reminders, etc.

James D. Stauffer 1932-2024

Jim Stauffer, a leader in our Chapter for decades, passed away in Lancaster County on March 3. FM-PA extends our condolences to his wife Mimi and the family. His many professions are described at <<https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com/obituary/james-d-stauffer/>>: paratrooper, Army photographer, geologist, encyclopedia salesman, insurance salesman, physics and earth science teacher, middle school guidance counselor, emergency medical technician, administrator in adult education and ESL for Lancaster County Prison.

Through most of this he was an avid mineral collector; the obituary reports "Jim attended Franklin and Marshall College and completed with a degree in geology which began his lifelong mineral collecting passion. A passion which he shared with his wife E. Amelia Craig Stauffer and their 5 daughters, often joking that he had "rocks in his head!" Jim served as the president of Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania during the 1960's. During that time and into the 1970's, weekends were spent on field trips with the MSP to quarries where adults and kids would chip away with hammers searching for minerals to add to their collection. The Stauffer collection was extensive and took up half of the basement in their home and was coined the "Rock Room." A number of his unique Canadian collection were purchased by the Bancroft Mineral Museum in Ontario. He had a keen eye and knew where to dig for choice specimens. His love of writing and minerals converged when he published an article on Turquoise in the mineral magazine, Matrix."

As FM Region 3's (later Pennsylvania Chapter) first Education Committee Chair, Jim provided a thoughtful

article in the Chapter's first newsletter (available on our web site) concerning sharing knowledge, sharing specimens, and reviewing priorities. -Editor

FM National News

The most recent national Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy <<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>> is from March, and includes Minutes of the National Board of Directors Annual Meeting. A version of the President's Message from Bill Stephens was in our last Chapter Newsletter.

Also included is the Call for Papers for the 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium, with the theme Shades of Green: From Apatites to Zeunerites – More Than Just Emeralds. It will be held at the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. The announcement and Call for Papers are reprinted on pages 4-5 herein. -Editor



**EFMLS /
AFMS
Federation
News**



FM-PA Chapter is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We encourage our readers to read the monthly newsletters available on their web sites.

The AFMS June Newsletter has updates on American Lands Access Association. Safety for kids is discussed, The PR Chair discusses best practices and an upcoming Zoom discussion. Historian Jennifer Haley still stories of how rockhounds used their expertise to aid the war effort in WWII. Winners of the 2024 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest are listed. A feature article discusses Ordovician *Maclurites* fossil snails.

The Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> June Newsletter provides an illustrated article by our own Andrew "Dirtman" Rockhound on "Lee Levesque's Record Setting Herculees & Medusa" Herkimer "diamonds." The May Newsletter included Bill Stephens' Presidents Message with updates on EFMLS officer positions, finances and membership statistics, as well as the Mount Pleasant Mills wavellite machine dig.

-Editor

President's Message

from

Bill Stephens, PG,
President:

Friends of Mineralogy
Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA)



The highlight of my spring was the April 6 machine dig targeting wavellite and related phosphate minerals at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA, and the extremely well attended post-machine dig field trip led by myself as President of FM-PA, and our new board member, President of Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig. We had well over 100 attendees from our two clubs and another 25 or so from the Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. All of our organizations are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) of which I am currently President for my second and final term; Andrew is both Social Media Director, current 1st VP and incoming President. Everyone had an excellent adventure and many high quality specimens which Tommy and I missed accidentally, or on purpose, were recovered. Clubs continue to find very nice specimens every weekend. Tommy Greene, current Field Trip Coordinator for the newly formed Young Mineral Collectors, and member of both the North Jersey Mineral Collectors and the New Jersey Chapter of FM, was my partner in the machine dig, and Andrew took off the entire week with us to document the entire event with photos and video.

As I mentioned in last quarter's Newsletter, next year's national symposium (Saturday Feb. 15, 2025) theme is "Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds" (see pages 4-5). FM-PA will coordinate with a theme of green Pennsylvania minerals. The wavellite dig and post-dig field trip were specifically tailored to develop both specimens and information for my planned presentations at the FM-PA and FM National symposia as a green mineral. Interestingly we mined out the large yellow wavellite zone from which Ryan Klockner recovered his 1" ball specimen during our 2022 machine dig.

This year's FM-PA symposium will be held at Pitt Johnstown campus (UPJ) the weekend of November 9 and 10, 2024, and I anticipate delivering a presentation on, as well as leading our symposium field trip to the wavellite occurrence at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA. Wavellite is on the list of green minerals for the FM National 2025

Symposium. I anticipate each symposium will be well attended, and each will likely be worth 6 CEUs for professionals. I am working on New York State and hope to have that state as other states have, list us as preapproved before either symposium.

If you are interested in contributing an article to the National Bulletin, or in giving a presentation at the FM National or FM-PA symposia, you can contact me directly, or National Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac (articles only), or Mark Jacobson for the National Symposium for 2025 (by July 31 - see pages 4-5 of this issue).

See my message in the June FM-National Bulletin (just out on their web site, after other writing in this issue was completed) for several administrative things we are working to address, fix or improve at that level. These include distribution of the national Bulletin of FM, non-profit status paperwork, the national logo, social media pages, and operating regulations. That message also discusses the relationship we have directly or indirectly with the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS), its parent the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (AFMS), and the affiliated American Lands Access Association, Inc. (ALAA). It's fundamentally important in my view to maintain relationships with and cooperate with these organizations where it makes sense. Finally I review some of the recent history of EFMLS, because it is important for us to recognize that we are not immune to the consequences of poor or ineffective leadership, or even sabotage. We can learn much from a resurrection like EFMLS's post-Covid growth and utilize those lessons in FM. We need to be certain in our revisions to the operating regulations that we include strong protections against improper use of social media, the website and zoom accounts. We need to be vigilant in our administrative duties. We need to vet prospective officers. And we need to pay attention to successful methods of growth. Once thing is for sure and I can report seeing it: Local clubs come and go, but there is only one Friends of Mineralogy. I need your support and participation to grow this organization and make it the shining star its founders envisioned.

New Board member Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig was voted to be the incoming President of EFMLS. Congrats (or Condolences) to Andrew. Look for Andrew's bio in the national Bulletin.. And, check out his Dirtman Reports on YouTube! They are a hoot and informative and professionally prepared by Andrew a.k.a. "Dirtman".

Our national VP Nicole Childs has taken a new job, and I/we congratulate her (as soon as we get her new email) Congratulations to Nicole! ❄



The 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium

*Shades of Green: From Apatites to
Zeunerites – More Than Just Emeralds*

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ

Call for papers

From Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy - Vol. 54, No. 1, March, 2024

The forty-third Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: “Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds.”

Presentations are sought on Green minerals – localities, geology, mineralogy, crystallography, cause of color, or geochemistry. Some examples of desired topics, but not restricted to these, are emeralds and hiddenite from the Hiddenite, NC locality; chrysoberyl localities and geology; emeralds, geology and mineralogy; variscite, Fairfield, Utah locality, history and mineralogy; malachite from Arizona; gaspeite, type locality, geology and Western Australia deposits; annabergite localities; pyromorphite, phoenixville, PA; diopside, Tsumeb locality; prehnite from zeolite localities; wavellite – PA and Arkansas; torbernite, best of; epidote – Prince of Wales Island and Tyrol, Austria localities; and of course the cause of the green color on minerals.

An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected.

Interested speakers, should first submit their desired talk title for a presentation length of 30 minutes (or 25 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions). There will be 10 minutes between talks to handle introductions, and computer and sound. There will be a wireless lapel microphone for mobile speakers who do not wish to be restricted to the podium or a mounted stationary microphone for the speaker.

We will acknowledge all submitted presentations. Accepted presentations will need to be followed up with a 200-500 word abstract (single spaced in 12 point font, Word or equivalent format) with one graphic or photograph associated with the abstract desired by the author (but not inserted into the text), a 5-10 sentence speaker biography and a photographic headshot of the speaker (submitted separately), also in word format. All abstracts, biographies, and photos will be combined for creation into an abstract-program booklet. The speaker will also provide their preferred email address and contact phone number. This is NOT for the program but for communication with the symposium organizer.

Presenters will provide the digital talk in PowerPoint (pptx or ppt) and PDF format either on a flash drive or a downloadable internet site. Presenters will not be permitted to use their own computers. The symposium computer is a PC using an up-to-date Microsoft operating system. In addition, these talks may be recorded IF all speakers agree to recording in advance.

Please send submitted titles (and later abstracts and speaker biographies) by one of three methods:

By mail: Mark Ivan Jacobson 1714 S. Clarkson St., Denver, CO 80210

By email: fm.mineral.symposium@gmail.com

By the form on the Friends of Mineralogy website at www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers

Presentation titles must be submitted prior to **July 31, 2024**.

Abstracts, presentation images, speaker biographies, and photographic headshots must be submitted prior to **September 1, 2024**. The final abstract booklet with the speaker program is expected to be posted on the FM national website by December 15, 2024. The speakers and their presentation title will also appear in the January-February 2025 Rocks & Minerals magazine.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

July 13, 2024: Free Rock Swap & Rockhound Party, by Fantasia Mining, 625 Erie Street S, Massillon, Ohio 44646. Sat. only, 10:00 - ?? Rockhounding community event, free booth space.

<https://www.facebook.com/fantasiamining/>

July 27-28, 2024: Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, by Monongahela Rockhounds. West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co. #4, Skyview Hall (air-conditioned), 660 Noble Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15122. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. <https://www.monongahelarockhounds.org/events-shows>

July 27-28, 2024: Christmas in July Extravaganza, by Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club. Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA. Sat 9-5, Sun. 10-4. See facebook LancasterFossilandMineralClub

August 16-18, 2024: Gem Miner's Jubilee Gem & Jewelry show. Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, 80 Rocherty Road in Lebanon PA. Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-4. <https://www.gem-show.com/summer-show>

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FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA Chapter web site:

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And the Facebook page
(linked from the site above)

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From the Editor

David Glick

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www.facebook.com/FriendsofMineralogy/

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Shows & Events

<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

official address:

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter
425 Armagast Road, Bellefonte PA 16823

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Vice President	Dianne Soccio		
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Secretary	Mark Sigouin		
	Mike Dunton		
	Andrew Eppig		
	William Kochanov		
	Ron Sloto		

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Membership Chair	Dianne Soccio		
Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott		
Web Manager	Ron Sloto		
Newsletter Editor	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 810-2116

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Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN

FM-PA Annual Symposium and MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter
SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 9, 2024 - Field Trip Nov. 10
Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

SECOND ANNUAL MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW

SHOW SATURDAY 8:30 - 6:00 ADMISSION FREE TO ALL
40 TABLES OF SELECTED VENDORS

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$ 15.00 Members \$10.00 Students free
Friday evening Nov. 8: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 9: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** concentrating on **Green Pennsylvania Minerals, including:**

Beryls of Pennsylvania - by Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University

Pyromorphite in Pennsylvania - by Ross Elliott, PG, Delaware DNREC

Wavellite at Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania - by Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors

Professional Geologists: Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 10 Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants.

Visit our web site for details, registration form, changes and updates: **www.rasloto.com/FM**

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FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Pennsylvania Chapter

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52, No. 3
Meeting annually at our Symposium: Johnstown, PA
OCTOBER, 2024

Plan NOW to Attend:

SYMPOSIUM on
Green Pennsylvania Minerals
and
Second Annual SHOW
at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
In Person or Online

Meet & Greet Friday Nov. 8

Friday evening, 6:00 p.m., planned for the Sleep Inn (see p. 2). Show off your finds of the summer, talk with new and old friends.



Conference Center at the Living-Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown.
 Parking is in the lots to the left (north).
S. Lindberg photo

Mineral, Gem & Fossil SHOW

Sat. Nov. 9 FREE SHOW ADMISSION

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Conference Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown.

30-plus vendor tables with fascinating merchandise.

SYMPOSIUM Saturday Nov. 9

FM-PA members \$10, non-members \$15, students free.

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Conference Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown. In person or Online. Six presentations (see page 2), Annual Meeting of the membership & elections, silent auction, giveaway table. Morning coffee and pastries in the Varsity Room are included.

Field Trip Sun. Nov. 10

Mount Pleasant Mills, PA. Open only to Symposium registrants who attend Saturday afternoon safety briefing (the final talk of the Symposium) in person or via Zoom. Safety equipment will be required on the trip.

JOIN US! -

The Symposium will have informative talks by knowledgeable speakers on minerals, geology and mining in Pennsylvania and beyond, centered around the theme of Green Pennsylvania Minerals (see page 2). This is a hybrid meeting with attendance both in person and via Zoom. Doors open for check-in at 8:00 a.m., with the presentations scheduled to conclude by 5:00 p.m. As usual, the Symposium will include a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts. All interested mineral collectors are invited to register and attend.

Advance REGISTRATION is open now by mail or internet; the form and payment must be received by the Treasurer by **November 6**. The registration form is on the web site <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/> and included with this newsletter.

On site registration on Saturday November 9 is possible, but it is by paper form only, cash or check only. Registration for FM-PA members is \$10, non-members \$15, college and younger students free (parents must provide supervision of minors.)

LUNCH: There are several possibilities for **walking to lunch in the Student Union on campus** (NOTE that all of the on-campus facilities are CASH-FREE - credit or debit card payment only): brunch buffet in the dining hall, \$14; Subway, grill station and pizza in the student union. Several restaurants are a short drive off-campus.

SILENT AUCTION and GIVEAWAY TABLE are long-time favorites at our Symposia. The auction raises funds for our Chapter, and both find new homes for specimens, books, and equipment. A **donation or two** - or more - are greatly appreciated, not only by the Chapter but also by their new owners.

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS: **SIX** Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance.

WEB SITE: <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/> has **updates, details**, and the registration form.

CONTACT: e-mail: <bstephens@stephensenv.com>

SPEAKERS - LODGING - ELECTIONS
and more on page 2

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

complete titles and Saturday schedule
to be announced soon:

Ronald A. Sloto, PG

Beryls of Pennsylvania

Dr. Robert J. Altamura, PG

Serpentine minerals in Pennsylvania

Ross Elliott, PG

Pyromorphite in Pennsylvania

Tomer Shapira

Green Diopside in New York

Dr. Ryan Kerrigan

Green Rocks of Northwest Portugal – Ultramafics

William Stephens, PG

Wavellite at Mount Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania

In addition, Dr. Kyle Trostle of Snellius Minerals will provide an ongoing educational and entertaining demonstration of mineral optics in the lobby.

MINERAL DEALERS FOR OUR SHOW

Vendors from last year's show next to the Symposium room are being invited to return. If you know of others who would be interested, please contact, or have them contact, Treasurer David Glick, xidg@verizon.net, for information and a dealer contract (due by Oct. 21).

OFFICIAL NOTICE: ANNUAL MEETING

The Symposium will include a brief ANNUAL MEETING of the membership of the Corporation, including elections. Incumbents Kochanov, Sloto, Soccio, and Stephens are standing for election to the Board of Directors.

James D. Stauffer Collection Auction October 12-13, Lancaster

We noted in the last newsletter that long-time FM-PA Chapter member and leader Jim Stauffer passed away in March. His extensive collection will be auctioned off on October 12 and 13, online and in person in Lancaster, PA, by Boltz Auctions. These are the correct dates - not the 11th and 12th as may have been stated earlier. Thanks go to Arnold Mogel for the updates.

See the story at <https://www.jimstaufferrocks.net/> and scroll down on that page to see the good specimen photos. Follow the HiBid links there to see all of the lots for both days. See also Boltz Auction Co <https://www.boltzauctions.com/index.html> -Editor

LODGING - BOOK NOW!

The following three hotels are nearby, and others are in the area. Make your reservations now! Sleep & Comfort Inn reservations may not work in Firefox browser.

Sleep Inn of Johnstown

<https://www.choicehotels.com/pennsylvania/johnstown/sleep-inn-hotels/pa030?mc=llgoxxpx>

Address: 453 Theatre Dr, Johnstown, PA 15904

Phone: (814) 262-9292

Within 1 mile of campus

Comfort Inn Of Johnstown

<https://www.choicehotels.com/pennsylvania/johnstown/comfort-inn-hotels/pa113>

Address : 455 Theatre Dr, Johnstown, PA 15904

Phone : (814) 266-3678

Within 1 mile of campus

Holiday Inn Express of Johnstown

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/johnstown/jstjt/hoteldetail>

Address: 1440 Scalp Ave, Johnstown, PA 15904

Phone: (814) 266-8789

About 1.5 miles from campus

Driving to Pitt Johnstown Campus:

From eastern, southern, or western points: Take the PA Turnpike (Route 76) to the Somerset Exit. From Somerset, take Route 219 North to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756. Make a right off the exit, then another right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

Alternate route from eastern or southern points: Take the PA Turnpike (Route 76) to the Bedford Exit. At the exit, turn left on Business Route 220, then left again onto Route 220 (I-99) North towards Altoona. Exit onto Route 56 West. Follow Route 56 for approximately 33 miles until reach the traffic light at Theatre Drive. Make a right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

From northern points: Take Route 219 South to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756 (Note: do not take the Johnstown Expressway exit). As you descend the exit ramp, use the middle lane. At the traffic light (bottom of exit ramp) turn left onto Route 756; then turn right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

The Symposium is at the LLCNT (Conference Center), directly off Kunk's Drive at the northeast side of the campus. **Free parking** is available in three separate lots near the conference center, to the north, around the intersection of Picking Drive and Kunk's Drive. See the map on the web site, <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/>

Earth Science Week

Celebrate “Earth Science Everywhere” October 13-19, 2024

from <https://www.earthsciweek.org/>

The American Geosciences Institute organizes Earth Science Week every October. Toolkits - collections of print materials - are available. There will be a webinar each day of the week, and last year's webinars are available. There are contests for photographs, video, visual arts, and essays. See the website for all of this and more.

“Earth Science Week is more than an event; it's a global movement towards understanding and cherishing our planet. This initiative ignites curiosity and fosters appreciation for the Earth sciences. It brings to light the intricate connections between geoscience and our daily lives. With a plethora of educational activities, resources, and events, Earth Science Week is a vibrant call to action for individuals of every age and background. It's an invitation to dive into the fascinating world of Earth's processes, explore the bounty of natural resources, and discuss the pivotal role of geosciences in addressing critical societal challenges. This initiative doesn't just educate; it inspires a lifelong passion for Earth science and instills a deep sense of stewardship for our planet and its future.”

“Every October, this enthusiasm comes alive as community groups, educators, and citizens around the globe host an array of celebratory events.”

FM National News

Two (June and September) national Bulletins of Friends of Mineralogy have been distributed (see <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>) since our last Chapter Newsletter.

The June issue has the President's Message and a report of the National Executive Committee. At the Committee meeting our own Andrew Eppig was appointed as an at-large director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Erin Delventhal, and appointed to the Social Media Committee. “An Adventure to Ruck's Pit” in Fort Drum, Florida, was described in an article by Ryan Klockner. At the EFMLS Annual Convention in New Jersey, there was a ceremony in advance of Andrew Eppig assuming the office of President in November. Extensive regional chapter reports were included.

In the September issue, the speaker lineup is set for the 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium, with the theme Shades of Green: From Apatites to Zeunerites – More Than Just Emeralds. It will be held at

the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show[®], on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society[®], the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. The announcement is reprinted on page 11 herein.

The President's Message is reprinted on pages 7-9 of this issue. It is announced that Ruck's Pit property was sold and, after serious efforts to get specimens in to the hands of collectors, all collecting on the property is done. There are regional chapter reports (apologies from this editor for the wrong year appearing in our listing). *-Editor*



**EFMLS / AFMS
Federation
News**



FM-PA Chapter is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We encourage our readers to read the monthly newsletters available on their web sites.

The AFMS <https://www.amfed.org/newsletter> October Newsletter has a variety of articles. Planning for the AFMS 2025 joint convention with EFMLS in Hickory, NC, is underway, with an introduction to the state. The safety article notes the evidence that participating in activities with a group benefits our health.

The Eastern Federation's <https://efmls.org/> October Newsletter provides some details including lodging for the EFMLS/AFMS Convention, March 27-31, 2025, in Hickory, NC. Ellery Borow writes about keeping track of a club's history. Donations are invited for the AFMS Scholarship Fund. *-Editor*

LATE-BREAKING BOOK NEWS:

The Mines and Minerals of Delaware County,
Pennsylvania, by Ronald A Sloto

Long-time FM-PA officer Ron Sloto's new book on Delaware County, Pennsylvania, is now available from Amazon.com. It has 284 pages and includes over 300 color photographs. *-Editor*

Minerals of the White Pigment Quarry, West York, York County, Pennsylvania

Ronald A. Sloto, P.G.
West Chester University

INTRODUCTION

The flooded and abandoned White Pigment Corporation quarry is located on Hull Drive, east of the intersection of U.S. Route 30 and Pennsylvania State Route 426, at 39°56'15.6" latitude and 76°46'55.4 longitude in West York (fig. 1). The corporation produced inert pigments and whiting.

The bedrock in the quarry was mapped as Cambrian Ledger Formation by Stose and Jonas (1939); however, it probably is the underlying Cambrian Kinzers Formation. The rock is a white to very light gray, fine-grained calcareous marble. Bedding is obscure, but probably dips steeply to the north. The general strike appears to be northeast-southwest; however, bedding is very difficult to recognize in the mostly mottled white limestone. Previous mapping suggests that the structural setting is a synclorium that has a thin sequence of dolomite at the surface. There are several nearly vertical Triassic diabase dikes in the quarry (fig. 2); these do not appear related to the observed recrystallization of the marble (Berkheiser, 1983).



Figure 2. Triassic-age diabase dike in the White Pigment quarry in West York, York County, Pennsylvania, 1985.



Figure 1. Aerial view of the flooded White Pigment quarry in West York, York County, Pennsylvania, 2023.

The quarry was purchased from H.E. Williams sometime around the end of WW II. On September 30, 1946, a short-lived fire aboard a coal-burning steam shovel at the quarry of the White Pigment Company was extinguished by the Reliance Fire Company. Firemen said that the probable cause of the fire was an overheated boiler (York Daily Record, October 1, 1946).

I visited the quarry in 1985 for the purpose of collecting minerals. It was a small quarry with a small

working area at the bottom (fig. 3). Mineralization was observed in only one area of the quarry near a narrow diabase dike (fig. 4). The adjacent rock did not appear to be thermally altered by the dike. Mineralization was on the quarry wall, which made removing specimens difficult. Paragenesis is as follows: calcite, barite, dolomite, pyrite. These minerals occur in association with each other. A suite of minerals, described below, was collected during my visit. The quarry has been abandoned and flooded for many years.



Figure 3. The White Pigment quarry in West York, York County, Pennsylvania, 1985.



Figure 4. Mineralized area in the White Pigment quarry, 1985.

All analyses were performed at the West Chester University Center for Microanalysis and Imaging, Research and Training (CMIRT). Imaging and chemical analyses were done using a ThermoScientific Apreo 2S LoVac scanning electron microscope (SEM) integrated with an Oxford AZtec X-ray energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS). Samples were unpolished and uncoated. A powder X-ray diffractometer (XRD) was used to determine mineral species.

Barite BaSO_4

Barite occurred sparsely in an unusual habit (fig. 5). It is tan with a columnar habit composed of intergrown elongated crystals. The identity of this mineral was not obvious when it was collected; it was confirmed as barite by XRD analysis.



Figure 5. Intergrown crystals of barite from the White Pigment quarry, 1.2 cm (right side).

Calcite CaCO_3

Calcite (fig. 6) was common in several habits in the mineralized area. It occurred as large, white, blocky crystals in a modified rhombohedral habit (fig. 7), grey-white to white, translucent nailhead crystals (fig. 8), and as clear rhombohedral crystals to 7 mm.



Figure 6. Calcite from the White Pigment quarry. Large crystal is 6 cm.



Figure 7. Calcite from the White Pigment quarry, 2.8 cm.



Figure 8. Calcite from the White Pigment quarry, 3 cm.

Dolomite $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$

Dolomite crystals were unusual colors-red and yellow. The colors may be caused by iron. Dolomite occurred as saddle-shaped rhombohedrons. Both colors were found together in the mineralized area.

Red dolomite crystals were up to 4 mm (fig. 9). SEM-EDS analysis showed that the iron concentration ranged from 0.52 to 1.63 wt% with a median value of 1.2 wt%. The presence of trace sulfur (range 0 to 0.96 wt%;



Figure 9. Red dolomite crystals from the White Pigment quarry, 8 cm (left side).



Figure 10. Yellow dolomite crystals from the White Pigment quarry, 7.5 cm (left side).

median 0.16 wt%) indicates that some of the iron may be associated with included pyrite.

Yellow dolomite crystals were up to 6 mm (fig. 10). SEM-EDS analysis showed that the iron concentration ranged from 0 to 7.63 wt% with a median value of 1.02 wt%. The presence of trace sulfur (range 0 to 0.19 wt%; median 0 wt%) indicates that some of the iron may be associated with included pyrite.

Pyrite FeS_2

Pyrite was common as brassy cubic and modified cubic crystals with individual crystals to 7 mm. It usually occurred as groups of intergrown crystals (fig. 11). Pyrite was the last mineral to form and is an overgrowth on the other minerals.



Figure 11. Pyrite from the White Pigment quarry, 10 cm (top).

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- Berkheiser, S.W., Jr., 1985, High-purity silica occurrences in Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., Mineral Resource Report 88, 67 p.
- Stose, G.W., and Jonas, A.I., 1939, Geology and mineral resources of York County, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., County Report 67, 199 p.

President's Message

from
Bill Stephens, PG,
President:

Friends of Mineralogy
and
Friends of Mineralogy -
Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA)



from FM-National Newsletter 54:3, September 2024

As I sit at my desk in the “War Room” of my basement office, I can’t help but reflect on today and this coming 4th quarter of 2024. A period of milestones and transitions in my life and my service to the mineralogical community. Today marks 29 years in business since I started Stephens Environmental Consulting, Inc. (SECI), a civil design, surveying and environmental consulting company I founded on this day in 1995. As I look back on a rather storied history, I feel a little melancholy, proud, hopeful and satisfied all at the same time. We certainly had some glory days and some near death experiences, corporately and financially speaking, much of which were tied directly or indirectly to the economy.

But we survived and thrive. As an entrepreneur and owner of SECI, I have been fortunate to have been involved with some of the largest development projects on the Delmarva Peninsula, investigated and remediated many leaking tank and some hazardous substance sites, contributed litigation support and expert testimony in notable court cases, employed and trained many successful young professionals, some of whom are now partners in medium sized consulting firms, and continually reinvented and refocused my company’s directions to adapt to changing economic conditions. In just the last few years, I have performed projects at many Federal military installations around the country which required me to get licensed in those states and have just this year begun to work on my first residential subdivision project as prime consultant since the housing collapse of 2007-2008.

So why do I say all this and how does it relate to our organizations? I believe we bring to our leadership roles in non-profits to which we contribute those skills we have acquired in our life experiences. Other than collecting rock and minerals, or fishing, the majority of my life experience since college has been running SECI and doing the job, getting the jobs done, managing the time it takes to do them, learning new skills, navigating

the regulatory paradigm and working with people, clients and regulators and the public stakeholders alike.

Things peaked for us in 2006, but that was short lived “sugar high”, financially speaking. After the housing crash of 2007-2008, by 2010 things were pretty bad for me and my business and with young ones at home in school and almost no work out there for design professionals, I had no staff left and had lost many of the software and equipment skills I needed to run SECI and feed my family. I needed to find a niche, and I worked relentlessly on rebuilding. I sold the boat and began, timidly I might add, to reinsert myself into the rockhounding community by joining the Delaware Mineralogical Society (DMS).

Within a few years I was on the board of DMS, was voted in a VP of Programs and began running the programs. It took a couple years, but I successfully negotiated our way back into the Delaware Museum of Natural History for our meeting venue and promoted a strong mutually symbiotic relationship with the DMNH that survives to this day. Some speakers drew attendance over 60, which was more than twice the attendance ever recorded at the previous venue.

One of the things I noticed while VP of Programs was that most of the field trip attendees, and DMS ran never less than 11 field trips per year, had little or no idea what they were doing, where to look for minerals reported at the location, what they looked like or even the likelihood of finding anything at all. People, and sometimes myself included, typically wandered around aimlessly scanning the ground and hoping for a random ground score or selecting random rocks to pound on. Field trip leaders, though they may have been serious and knowledgeable collectors, provided little spatial and geological information about the localities in advance of the field trip, which certainly contributed to frustration amongst attendees. It occurred to me that with all the resources I had at SECI, perhaps I should start developing presentations that filled the gap of spatial and geological information for our more commonly visited field trip locations. The idea being to give a largely lay audience enough geospatial and geological information, mainly in the form of maps with imagery, photographs, charts and such, “enough information to improve their potential for successful collecting”.

Turns out that has been a very successful benefit to the many clubs in the EFMLS and has been my

contribution to the 2022 and 2023 National Symposia, as well as Symposia at FM-PA for the last 7 or so years. Ten of my PowerPoint presentations are on the Geology365 Presenters database and include actual machine digs at the Hogg Mine and Diamond Hill as well as a presentation on Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining's major finds of 2022-2023, including Lee Levesque's as yet unchallenged as largest ever monster skeletal "Herkimer diamonds." Darryl Powell and I co-wrote and published a short, well illustrated 40-page book on Lee's finds entitled "Hercules, Medusa & the Baby," which includes color maps showing the location of the major pockets from my field survey and drone base mapping. The presentation was given first at the EFMLS Convention at Syracuse and later the 2023 National Symposium and has been requested by many clubs interested in mining Herkimers. Organizations interested in attending any of the sites for which I have a prepared Presentation can contact me directly or through the presenter's database on Geolgy365.

While at the DMS in 2019, I was invited to join the EFMLS as Region IV Regional VP, and I attended the conference that year. You all know the story, so I won't get into it again, but as my second and final term as EFMLS President comes to an end October 31, 2024, I feel a sense of great satisfaction, having led the EFMLS out of near collapse and dissolution to a thriving, growing and technically sophisticated service organization with more than 86 member organizations including FM-PA & FM-NJ, totaling more than 10,000 members including more than 1,000 juniors. We actually got an award from the American Federation, our parent organization, for most growth of the 7 Regional Feds this year. My job is done, and it will be up to our incoming EFMLS President, Andrew "Rockhound" or "Dirtman" Eppig and his administration to continue to lead the EFMLS into the future. I will continue on as re-elected Region IV RVP, and as webmaster administrator, and of course as immediate Past President, but my contributions and time commitment will be greatly curtailed.

As I mentioned in last quarter's Newsletter, next year's symposium theme is on "green minerals". The wavellite dig and post-dig field trip were specifically tailored to develop both specimens and information for my planned presentations at our symposia at FM-PA and FM National as a green mineral. Interestingly we mined out the large yellow wavellite zone from which Ryan Klockner recovered his 1" ball specimen during

our 2022 Machine dig. Contact me any time if interested in specimens or after the Tucson Symposium for a presentation for your club. I highly recommend you attend or chime in remotely to both symposia for not only my talk, but other fantastic presentations by far more qualified mineralogists than I.

This year's FM-PA symposium will be held at Pitt Johnstown campus (UPJ) the weekend of November 9 and 10, 2024, and I will deliver a presentation on, and will lead our symposium field trip to the Wavellite occurrence at the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA. Wavellite is on the list of green minerals for the FM National 2025 Symposium. I anticipate each symposium will be well attended, and each will likely be worth 6 CEUs for Professional Geologists. I am working on New York State and hope to have that state as other states we have, list us as preapproved continuing education providers before either symposium.

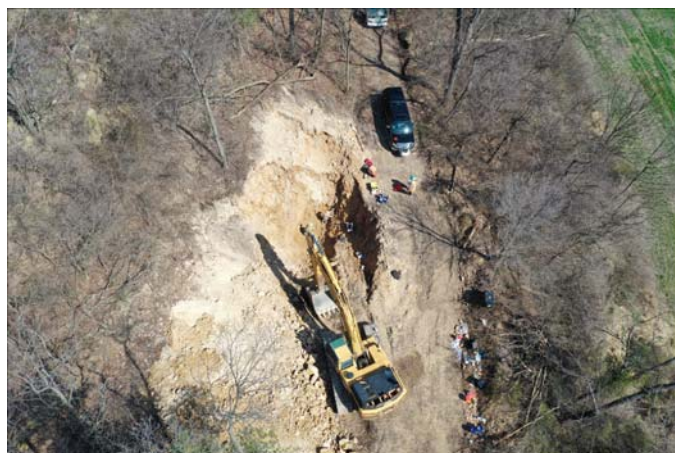


Image 1. Aerial view of the National Limestone Quarry Wavellite Dig Site.
Bill Stephens photo



Image 2. Aerial view of the National Limestone Quarry Wavellite Dig Site.
Bill Stephens photo

If you are interested in contributing an article to the newsletter, or in giving a presentation at the FM National or FM-PA symposia, you can contact me directly, our Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac (articles only) or Mark Jacobson for the National Symposium for 2025. Similarly, for EFMLS contact myself, or EFMLS Newsletter Editor Dan Imel.

Before I continue with happenings and fun things, here's a recap of administrative things at FM-National we are working to address, fix or improve:

1. Sean (our new newsletter editor Sean Stimac) will work with me to make sure everyone gets the newsletter in the future. I think we have a comprehensive list now, but if you are still not receiving it via email, always check the website for the newsletter, downloadable there and feel free to reach out to myself or Sean if you aren't receiving it.

2. Bruce has been working to fix some issues with our organization's non-profit status that apparently dates back many years. He has graciously carried on the responsibility for fixing these issues even though he is no longer the current Treasurer, and we thank him profusely for his efforts. As of this writing, we are just awaiting official notice from the State of California as all filings have been accepted as complete and approved. Not sure if we have a physical certification yet.

3. We are continuing to use the old logo until such time as interest in developing a new one results in a product we can use without restriction. Just FYI.

4. Look for major show events listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

5. New Board member Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig was voted to be the incoming President of EFMLS. Congrats (or Condolences) to Andrew. Check out his Dirtman Reports on YouTube! They are a hoot and informative and professionally prepared by Andrew a.k.a. "Dirtman".

6. Andrew and I took over the social media pages (there are 3) after the elections and his appointment. We are reviewing the main public facing page procedures as the lack of postings on this page is directly related to the level of effort required to comply with the original concept of this page. We both believe there is a better way to get information out to the public and reduce the effort required to produce such posts. Personally, I think directing folks to articles in our newsletter or our affiliate rags

(Mineralogical Record, Rocks and Minerals, etc.), Mindat, other sources rather than trying to craft a stand-alone statement might just do the trick. It was clearly too much work for our board members who conceived it, and with reels and the like being the most effective way to draw attention to our (any) organization(s), we need to rethink and streamline the process. The other pages, particularly the internal chat oriented page, may be superfluous as they are largely unutilized. It is our opinion, coming from experience, that the primary purpose for social media accounts is to draw attention to our organization and attract new members, not compete with the newsletter.

7. At the FM National meeting this past February, Andrew and I agreed to take on the job of updating the operating regulations, which were under review in 2021. Not much has happened yet as we have both been extremely busy, but operating rules had been largely developed for FM-PA regarding social media at that time, and we still anticipate having a full set of edits to the operating regulations in place for review by December.

8. Our VP Nicole Childs has taken a new job, and I/we congratulate her (as soon as we get her new email) Congratulations to Nicole!

As side notes, I will be working with a confidential client/mine owner in the Herkimer District beginning this fall on a development plan for the property. I am also looking to organize the first field trip led by FM-National and the YMC for next Spring to this site. Look for details in the next newsletter. If any of our Chapters would like to host a field trip, feel free to contact me directly.

A new or newly re-identified location for spectacular green glassy-faced diopside crystals has produced some outstanding finds. Look for displays of this new production as well as my wavellite and probably Lee Levesque's monster Herkimers at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show next February. Tommy Greene, Lee and I will be in attendance at our displays except I will be at the Symposium all day Saturday.

Till then, stay safe, stay tuned and happy hunting!

Sincerely,
Bill Stephens, PG, President
FM-PA, FM National & EFMLS

FM-PA & CPRMC Joint Field Trip National Limestone Quarry on April 6

by Sean Stimac from Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy - Vol. 54, No. 2, June, 2024



The Author, Bill Stephens and Andrew Eppig at the FM-PA and CPRMC joint field trip at National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania.



The Author's favorite self-collected sample of wavellite collected during the field trip.



A sample of calcite self-collected by the author from the lower pit area of the National Limestone Quarry.

On April 6 the Pennsylvania Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy and the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club led a field trip to the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania. The event followed a machine a dig the second week of March by our president, Bill Stephens, and Tommy Greene where they opened up fresh pockets of wavellite on the West Wall. Not only did this expose immense amounts of collectible material, it also made the collection area safer for us. The removed material was laid down in a long row making it unnecessary for us to approach the wall itself. While they certainly removed some substantial material, there was plenty of high-quality specimens remaining for the attendees of the field trip.

Our group of over 100 people was split into two groups, one of which collected along the East Wall and the other collected along the West Wall. This author was in the group that collected from the freshly exposed West Wall.

Because the quarry was not in operation the day of our trip, we were afforded the opportunity to also collect from the areas of the quarry where material is still being extracted. This author opted to spend the final hour of his trip in this area of the quarry searching for calcite and strontianite. It was an easy task finding several of each worth keeping.

The field trip was very well planned and organized. All attendees the author spoke to reported that they had a great time. Despite the large crowd, one would have been hard pressed to have gone home empty handed. Those of us in attendance owe many thanks to Bill Stephens and Andrew Eppig for making this such a memorable day with friends and minerals.



A sample of iron-stained strontianite self-collected by the author from the lower pit area of the National Limestone Quarry.

The 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA
Tucson Mineral Symposium

*Shades of Green: From
Apatites to Zeunerites –
More Than Just Emeralds*

Saturday, February 15, 2025
Tucson Convention Center,
Tucson, AZ



Tucson Symposium Speakers

From Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy - Vol. 54, No. 3, September, 2024

The forty-third Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: “Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds.” An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected. The presentation schedule and abstracts will be available on the FM website by December 15, 2024.

The Speakers and Their Topics:

- Nicole Ahline, Nathan Renfro, and Aaron Palke – Gemological Characterization of Emeralds and Hiddenite from Alexander County, NC
- Jim Clanin – Emeralds from Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan
- William “Bill” Stephens – Geology and Mineralogy of the Wavellite Occurrence at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA
- Benjamin Murphy – Cr-azy Green and Red Minerals: On the Occurrence and Genesis of Chlorite-Fuchsite- Ruby Rocks of the Granite Mountains, WY
- Nathan Renfro – Through the Lens: The Microworld of Green Minerals
- Markus Raschke – Mushistonite from Xuebaoding: from ‘Panda Ore’ to Indicator of the Be-W-Sn Ore-forming Processes, Sichuan, China
- Peter Megaw – Los Verdes...Green Minerals from Mexico
- Kenneth C. Zahn – My 45-Year Love Affair with Maryland’s State-Line Pit “Gem Serpentine” (Williamsite/Antigorite)

The Symposium will be a live streamed via Zoom (using a separate computer) by FM Members to remote viewers who have pre-registered on the FM Website. Only pre-registered viewers will receive the Zoom invite, which will be emailed to registrants prior to the symposium and annual meeting. The symposium will be recorded only to verify participants, particularly those who have registered as Professional Geologists seeking certificates of attendance for professional development credits. No individual recorded presentations will be released without presenter approval, and then only to attendees who pre-registered and experienced a bandwidth issue, got dropped or were otherwise unable to get on and stay on the live presentation. FM has a growing remote audience that includes Professional Geologists (PG) looking for Continuing Education Credits (CEU) and we intend to promote this extraordinary event to those unable to attend in person.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

October 12-13, 2024: Jim Stauffer coll'n auction, see p. 2.

October 19-20, 2024: Mount Bethel Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Mt Bethel Firehouse, 2341 Route 611, Mount Bethel, PA 18343 (2 miles from 80/46 junction in NJ). Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4.

Oct. 26, 2024: South Mountain Rock Swap & Sale, by Franklin County R&M Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, west of Arendtsville PA on PA Route 234. Sat. Only, 8-3. See Facebook Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club

Oct. 26, 2024: Ultravioletation Fluorescent-only Mineral Show, by R&M Club of Lower Bucks County. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. Sat. only, 9-4.
<https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/shows>

Nov. 2- 3, 2024: Gemarama Annual Show, by Tuscara Lapidary Society. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. Saturday 10-6 / Sunday 10-5.
<https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

Nov. 9-10, 2024: Annual Symposium & Field Trip, by Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter. See p. 1.

Feb. 15, 2025: 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium. Tucson AZ Convention Center. See p. 11.

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA Chapter web site:

www.rasloto.com/FM/

And the Facebook page
(linked from the site above)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1099795867347595/>

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-810-2116 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the December issue should be submitted by **November 30**.

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 (at least 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! If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

National News

The Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org and
www.facebook.com/FriendsofMineralogy/

We are now a member club of EFMLS:

<https://efmls.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>
Shows & Events
<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>

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Treasurer	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 810-2116
Secretary	Mark Sigouin		
	Mike Dunton		
	Andrew Eppig		
	William Kochanov		
	Ron Sloto		

Members can find contact information
in the Newsletter edition which they
receive directly.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

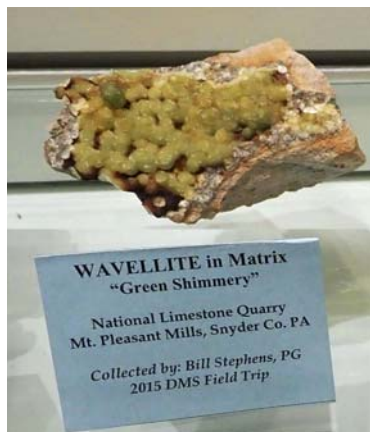
Membership Chair	Dianne Soccio		
Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott		
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Newsletter Editor	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 810-2116

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Web Site: <http://www.rasloto.com/FM>

**Another
Symposium
in the Books:**

**Green Pennsylvania Minerals
and
Second Annual SHOW
at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown**

The November 8 - 9 - 10 Symposium weekend began with an informal meet & greet on Friday evening at the Sleep Inn. The meeting room was undergoing renovations, so we met next door in the breakfast area, which had good visibility and served well. Collecting, membership, old times, old timers, next year's symposium, and many other topics were discussed.



Setup for the Show and Symposium began very early on Saturday morning at UP-J's Living Learning Center. Several members brought green minerals to show in the lobby display case. Attendees checked in and picked up their illustrated

DUES ARE DUE

If our records show that you have not yet renewed for 2025, you will find a dues form attached or included with this newsletter. We appreciate your prompt renewal, with check and paper form, or by using the PayPal link and PDF form at <https://rasloto.com/FM/join-fm-pa/>

program and abstract booklets (now available on the web site, <<https://rasloto.com/FM/symposium-2/>>. In-person attendance was about 33, including about 10 UP-J students; another 18 people attended via Zoom.

The schedule covered 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with six speakers, demonstrations in the lobby, the annual meeting, and breaks with time for refreshments, discussions, and visiting the silent auction and the mineral show. Presenters were:

- Ryan J. Kerrigan, PhD, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown: Green Rocks of Northwest Portugal – Ultramafic correlations across the Galicia-Trás-os-Montes Zone (GTMZ)
- Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University: Beryls of Pennsylvania
- Robert J. Altamura, PhD, PG, Consulting Geologist, State College, PA: Serpentine, an uncommon green rock-forming mineral, and its occurrences in the Appalachian Mountains with an emphasis on Pennsylvania



FM-PA Symposium in session at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown. More attendees were connected via Zoom. *D. Glick photo*

- Tomer Shapira: Recent Discovery of Large Diopside Crystals from the Cascade Slide Area, Essex County, New York
- Ross D. Elliott, PG, Delaware Mineralogical Society (presenter): Pyromorphite- the Famous Phoenixville Lead-zinc Mines
- Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental, FM, FM-PA, & EFMLS: Geology & Mineralogy of the now famous Wavellite Occurrence, National Limestone Quarry, Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA
- Kyle Trostle, PhD, Snellius Minerals, LLC: Macroscale Optical Mineralogy (demonstration).

At the brief Annual Meeting, accomplishments of the year were reviewed, and four incumbent Board members (Kochanov, Sloto, Soccio, and Stephens) were re-elected unanimously. At a later Board meeting, members re-elected the four incumbent officers to their positions (page 8).

The Chapter appreciated mineral dealers filling the mineral show in the next room with a wide variety of merchandise. The vendors were:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Eric Bonazza, Zedd's Gifts | • Mark Sigouin |
| • Geology Club of UP-J | • Karenne Snow |
| • Tommy Greene | • Bill Stephens |
| • Tomer Shapira | • Jim Van Fleet |

On Sunday, the field trip participants found their way more than two hours to the east (via roads generally going either northeast or southeast) and gathered at National Limestone Quarry, Inc., at Mount Pleasant Mills, PA. FM-PA continues to be grateful to owner Eric Stahl for allowing our club and others access to such an outstanding collecting locality. On this day, the rain impeded collecting



Throughout the day, Kyle Trostle provided a variety of demonstrations of Macroscale Optical Mineralogy phenomena in a dark tent in the lobby. *D. Glick photo*

somewhat, and new material had not been exposed in a while, but specimens were still collected. The minerals available there have been described in multiple articles in previous issues of this Newsletter and in the Symposium abstracts.

- Editor



Silent auction of minerals, books, and more. *D. Glick photo*



The mineral show was held in the room next to the Symposium presentations. *D. Glick photos*

President's Message

from
Bill Stephens, PG,
President:

**Friends of Mineralogy -
Pennsylvania Chapter
(FM-PA) [2020-present]**

Friends of Mineralogy National [2024-present]



TUCSON!!!

The holidays are upon us and Tucson is just around the corner. Where did the year go? As of this writing I have neither my shopping done, nor have I got in the spirit yet. Happens a lot more since my kids have been grown.

I admit to being both a little apprehensive and deeply excited for Tucson this year. I rented a house on the north side near the university from January 28 to February 17 with 3 other guys (Tomer Shapira, Sean Price and Tommy Greene). Driving both ways and visiting my folks, and possibly spending a week in Huntsville for a project on the way home. Possibly more than 5 weeks away from home, longest ever. I'll have my survey gear, drones, laptop and monitors as well as other business trappings with me, mining gear and cloths etc. Full going out and fuller coming back.☺

I and my roommates hope to do some entertaining, invite some folks over for show and tell. Call me, let's get together! Got a pool too! (not sure who would take the plunge in winter temps, surely not me, LOL).

I'll have to set up a little office so I can manage my business while away. We will be deep in planning as well as visiting all the great shows. Might even have a couple tables at the new show across the street from Mineral City.

Tommy Greene and I have a Wavellite case at the main show, as will my other friends including Lee Levesque who will be bringing his killer monster skeletal Herkimers from last year's discover at Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining. I will be speaking on Pennsylvania wavellite at the Symposium this year, joining the ranks of my betters in the mineral world. Check out the lineup of great talks and speakers elsewhere in this newsletter. We are "Going Green," our TGMS-FM Show and Symposium theme this year.

Can't wait to hit El Charro's with my friends and a few other foodie heaven venues. Be sure to check out posts on my Facebook and our new FB Group!

We have plans to check out a number of collecting sites in the area, but unfortunately the Red Cloud Mine has been bought and no collecting is allowed at this time. I was hoping to reprise the success Ryan Klockner & I had two years ago, but not this year.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since my last newsletter, which waxed a bit nostalgic, several things have happened that will be of interest to our members. First, EFMLS President elect Andrew Eppig has taken office officially and I am now the immediate past president but also remain Region 4 and Region 5 RVP with direct connections to clubs in those two regions. In general, I have significantly curtailed my activities in that organization. I wish Andrew and his administration, of which I remain a part, great success. Our PA Chapter is a member as is the NJ chapter though we do not get our insurance from EFMLS.

Second, The FM-PA symposium was a huge success once again this year with a few new members joining up, great attendance for us both in person and via zoom. I had absolutely no technical issues running the zoom this year, a first for any venue, and was relieved to say the least. The speakers were great. The show was not so great attendance wise, and the field trip was a bit lackluster due to heavy post-machine dig club digging throughout the year, and the rain, but that's OK, mission accomplished.

This was FM-PA's second year at Pitt Johnstown campus, and I think our great experiment venturing out into western PA outside our comfort zone has run its course, and we are looking to pin down a venue in the greater Philly area for our symposium next November and we have no plans to do a show, just the swap/sale we normally have had in the past. I must say we learned a lot, and we have upscaled our look with professional table covers, and new signs, posters and new tee shirts with our new logo (photos on next page). We are grateful to our hosts at UP-J for their generosity, fantastic venue and hope our symposium the last two years has benefitted the geology department and raised awareness of the importance of earth sciences.

I must say I feel bad I wasn't able to make it to Denver or chime in on the Pacific Northwest Chapter symposium, but I heard they were great. The usual job-related conflicts. Looking forward to all the chapter

reports coming out for the annual meeting February 14, 2025.

I learned about a month ago that all four of the FM National at-large Board Directors whose terms expire this February are not planning to sit for re-election, which created a rather daunting task for myself and the nominating committee. The prospect of showing up to the annual meeting without any prospects for those opening positions was troubling. I am pleased to report that I have submitted two names to our nominating committee chair Jessica Robertson (PNWC) and have one in the pipeline. Two are in the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) and all three are tech savvy. Sean Stimac has agreed to fill the position being vacated early by Andrew Eppig, understandably with his workload at EFMLS. So, there's still one at-large director position open. Feel free to reach out and let me know if you have any interest. We need your support! And it's not that much work.

Andrew transferred the FM National Facebook pages to Sean Stimac (our newsletter editor at National) and me, and Sean has taken over with supreme incentive. He has set up a new group. Everyone should join and it's open to the public to attract new members. He can provide more details as further discussion is out of my depth. He and I and Sean Price (current VP of YMC and candidate for one of the opening at-large director positions) had a zoom meeting to discuss the future of the Facebook Pages and how to handle a massive advertising campaign and membership drive over the next year or so. Took him just a couple hours and it was up. He can tell us more.

I have been working with two of the chapters that are struggling and hope to have favorable reports at the annual meeting. Stay tuned.

I'll hold off on discussing board business and other developments until the National annual meeting. I'll be running the annual meeting hybrid this year so wish me luck. ☺

CALL For ARTICLES

If you are interested in contributing an article to the National or PA Chapter newsletter, contact our National Newsletter Editor Sean Stimac (articles only) or David Glick for our PA Chapter Newsletter.

Be sure to look me up if you are in town. Till then, stay safe, stay tuned and happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President





FM National News

from September 2024 Newsletter v. 54 no. 3
and web site

<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>

The 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson
Mineral Symposium

*Shades of Green: From Apatites
to Zeunerites –
More Than Just Emeralds*

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Tucson Convention Center,
Tucson, AZ

Plan now to attend!

The forty-third Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place in person on Saturday, February 15, 2025. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: "Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds." An audience of amateur and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected. The Symposium Abstracts book with the presentation program can be downloaded from the web page shown above.

10:00 AM	Opening of symposium
10:00-10:15 AM	Introduction by symposium chair, Mark Jacobson
10:15 - 10:45 AM	Nathan Renfro - Through the Lens: The Microworld of Green Minerals
10:45 - 10:55 AM	break
10:55 - 11:25 AM	Nicole Ahline, Nathan Renfro, and Aaron Palke - Gemological Characterization of Emeralds and Hiddenite from Alexander County, North Carolina
11:25- 11:35 AM	break
11:35 - 12:05 AM	William "Bill" Stephens - Geology and Mineralogy of the Wavellite Occurrence at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania
12:05 - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Jim Clanin - Emeralds from Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan
2:00 - 2:10 PM	break
2:10 - 2:40 PM	Peter Megaw - Los Verdes...Green Minerals from Mexico
2:40 - 2:50 PM	break
2:50 - 3:20 PM	Kenneth C. Zahn - My 45-Year Love Affair with Maryland's State-Line Pit "Gem Serpentine" (Williamsite/Antigorite)
3:20 - 3:40 PM	extended break
3:40 - 4:10 PM	Benjamin Murphy and Anne Fulton - Cr-azy Green and Red Minerals: On the Occurrence and Genesis of Chlorite-Fuchsite-Ruby Rocks of the Granite Mountains, Wyoming
4:10 - 4:20 PM	break
4:20 - 4:50 PM	Markus Raschke - Mushistonite from Xuebaoding: from 'Panda Ore' to quantum spin system
4:50 PM	Close of symposium



EFMLS / AFMS Federation News



FM-PA Chapter is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We encourage our readers to read the monthly newsletters available on their web sites.

The AFMS <<https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>> November Newsletter begins with news from incoming president JC Moore, as he travels to regional federation meetings and seeks to fill positions such as Chair for Judges Training and Media Director. Public Relations Chair Jim Brace-Thompson writes on "Public Relations vs. Publicity - The Difference That Matters!" Rockhound of the Year recipients are honored.

Their December Newsletter invites donations of items (value \$75 or greater, weight 5 lbs or less) to be auctioned to benefit the AFMS Endowment Fund. "Crafting a Plan of Public Relations" is discussed. Historian Jennifer Haley writes about the 1940 5th Annual Convention of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies held in Santa Barbara, which had 3500 attendees and 54 exhibitors, even before the AFMS was formed. Eocene shorebird tracks in Utah are described in an illustrated article from the Crack the News AFMS juniors newsletter, July 2024, by junior member Sawyer Blizzard.

The Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> November Newsletter includes a message from the new president, Pennsylvania's own Andrew "Rockhound" Eppig; he discusses increasing membership, a new promotional package, "roundtable" meetings of club presidents, and updating the operations manual. Minutes of the EFMLS Annual Meeting on June 8 2024 are provided. Ellery Borow writes about saying thank you, about recording a club's history, and his safety article about hands is reprinted on page 7 herein. Donations are invited for the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

The EFMLS December Newsletter includes news from the president including increased coverage in the EFMLS insurance plan. Wildacres (May 12-18, 2025) registration opened on January 1, under the direction of new Wildacres chair Helen Serras-Herman; a brief

history of the EFMLS hands-on workshop instruction at the Wildacres retreat is presented. The class schedule is presented, and Speaker-in-Residence gemologist and appraiser Martin D. Fuller is introduced. News and background from the pegmatite mining town of Spruce Pine, North Carolina, just down the road from Wildacres and an hour from the 2025 AFMS/EFMLS Convention, is presented. Ellery Borow continues his series on recording a club's history, and the safety article concerns having an accessible, organized case for safety supplies. Club Rockhound of the Year nominees and other awards are discussed.

-Editor

Hands, where are They?

By
Ellery Borow

From EFMLS News, November 2024, v 71 no 11

One's hands play a big part in our hands-on hobby. Setting up for a rock and mineral show several years ago I was taking show tables off the cart, unfolding the tubular steel legs, and moving them into the positions shown on the show's table layout diagram. The tables were the heavy wooden ones with the metal edge around the perimeter. As I grabbed the next table, one finger was pushed hard against the very tip of a sharp sheet metal screw protruding through the metal perimeter frame. The table has been "fixed" by someone with a sheet metal screw placed exactly where one would grab the table to take it off the cart.

Our hands often seem to be placed in pinch-points with rock saws, grinding machine wheels, and folding table legs. Hands and fingers are often thrust between overhanging yet loose rocks, into holes / cavities / vugs in rocks where we cannot see that which our hands and finger may be exposed.

With machinery and folding table leg pinch points we can take note of their inherent dangers ahead of time and be sufficiently cautious when working around them. With rock pinch points we can explore the rock to try to be certain nothing is loose that might shift and grab ones fingers or hand. When reaching into a hole, we don't often know what exactly one's hands and fingers might find.

A not so common experience is hammering some rock and exposing what looks like a cavity. Sometimes a little more careful chipping may reveal an opening big enough to fit one hand in – a tempting opening to use to explore what is to be found inside the cavity. Think of having such an experience in a pegmatite mine where a hole may very well be a pocket of gem, multi-color tourmaline crystals. It would be hard to resist the temptation to reach inside to feel what is to be found. True, one might find muck and mud, but one may also find long secluded crystals! Who can resist the temptation to reach in and explore? In such a cavity one is unlikely to find critters inhabiting the hole.

In cavities, vugs and openings hammered in near-the-surface rock, it is possible any hole might have another or hidden opening allowing the hole to be occupied by things that bite. Any holes in the rock should be investigated with caution for critters living inside the hole, before sticking one's hand inside.

It is important to know where one's hands are, to keep one's eyes open for dangers to our hands and fingers. I have seen people drilling into a board with their hand holding the board and their fingers out of sight on the board's other side – a situation that is liable to result in a hole being drilled not just through the board but the finger as well. It is wise to always know where one's hands and fingers are located.

There are situations where one will want to empty their boots before sticking their feet in them, or look in the pail before sticking one's hand in, or looking underneath the crate for biting spiders before reaching underneath to lift it, or using a stick to check out the area under a bush before digging there with one's hands, or, well you get the idea. Please consider keeping your hands and fingers safe by knowing where they are in relation to any possible hidden dangers. Your hands and fingers will love you for the attention to being safe. After all, your safety matters.

Oh, by the way, that sharp sheet metal screw about to puncture my finger? Due to sensitive fingers and quick reaction time, there was no injury – lesson learned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Jan. 25, 2025: 57th Annual Open House, by Rutgers Geology Museum. 43 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. This year's theme will be "New Jersey Geology", with a series of lectures and activities related to this topic. All events are free to the public. For details and information, visit: the Geology Museum's website at: <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>
- Presentations by Leading Scientists (TBA) in Scott Hall, Room 123 [Note: Specific presentation details will be listed in the Jan. 2025 issue of The Rockhound Register]
- Mineral Sale: Scott Hall, Room 135, from 9 AM to 3 PM
- Rock & Mineral Identification in Scott Hall, Room 205, from 11 AM to 2 PM

Feb. 15, 2025: 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium. Tucson AZ Convention Center. See p. 5.

March 1-2, 2025: 61st Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Society, Inc. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202), Wilmington, DE 19803. Sat. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Sun. 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Juniors (12 –17) \$3, Scouts in Uniform & Children under 12 Free when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets only sold at the door. FEATURES: Interesting and educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens, Outstanding dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary supplies. Quality specimen raffles, Children' booth where youngsters may purchase inexpensive minerals, fossils. Contact: dmsrocksshowchair@gmail.com (Show Chair), Info and Discount coupons at www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow or at www.DMSrocks.org. Gene Hartstein –Show Publicity Chair

March 7-8, 2025: Micromounting Symposium, by Leidy Microscopical Society. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro PA 18954. Speakers on Friday & Saturday. Silent Auctions - Give-Away Tables Contact Donald McAlamen: donmcalamen@outlook.com leidymicroscopical.com

March 15 - 16, 2025: 59th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 6, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD. Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM, Sun. 11 AM to 5 PM. <https://www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml>.

Mar. 22 - 23, 2025: 55th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road, Wysox, PA. Sat. 9 AM to 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM. <http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS continued from page 7

March 27-30, 2025: AFMS / EFMLS Convention, Hickory, NC.

Mar. 29 - 30, 2025: Annual Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair, by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. LuLu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20). Free Parking. Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM. www.phillyrocks.org

Apr. 5 - 6, 2025: 35th Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect Street, Midland Park, NJ. Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM. <https://nojms.com/>

June 7, 2025: Spring Mineralfest, by Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (PESA). Macungie Memorial Park, 50 Poplar St., Macungie PA. Free; Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

FM on the WWW

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

And the Facebook page
(linked from the site above)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1099795867347595/>

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-810-2116 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the March issue should be submitted by **February 28**.

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 (at least 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! If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

National News

The Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org and
www.facebook.com/FriendsofMineralogy/

We are a member club of EFMLS:
<https://efmls.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>
Shows & Events
<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

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425 Armagast Road, Bellefonte PA 16823

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Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott		
Web Manager	Ron Sloto		
Newsletter Editor	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 810-2116

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