



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER



VOL. 51 No. 1

APRIL 2023

President's Message

by Bill Stephens, PG
FM-PA Chapter President

EFMLS President,
Webmaster and Region 4 VP



Well a lot has happened in the last few months and I'm pretty sure this is the first time I have contributed to the newsletter reports. FM-PA has been quite busy as have I. Only a few in FM outside of PA Chapter are aware I am also President (2022-2023) of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), one of six regional federations under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. EFMLS currently has over 7000 members in 85 clubs that have renewed their membership so far this year, from Maine to West Palm Beach, and we are growing. FM-PA by unanimous vote of the Board joined EFMLS last fall at the end of October and now enjoys the benefits of the outreach offered through EFMLS. I am active in both organizations and a member of several clubs in the mid-Atlantic region. I have owned my own consulting business for over 27 years (Stephens Environmental Consulting, Inc., aka SECI) and I am a licensed Professional

Bill Stephens reports: I will have an **OPEN HOUSE** Sunday, April 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All prospective attendees must contact me 2 days in advance via email. See page 3.

CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS - Page 2.

MEMBERSHIP POLL: Please help the Board of Directors make plans by replying to the poll in the email conveying this Newsletter, or on page 2.

Geologist (PG) in 7 states, and continue to advertise FM-National and FM-PA symposia as an inexpensive opportunity for PGs to get their continuing education credits required to maintain their licenses.

FM-PA had its Symposium last November at the Brightside Opportunities Center in south Lancaster City, PA. It was the best attended symposium on record (45 in person, several more on zoom) and I signed at least 7 certificates for Professional Geologist Continuing Education credits (CEUs or PDHs). Our field trip to the National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills (NLQ-MPM or just MPM, see my article on the EFMLS website) was a huge success and at one point we had 5 PGs digging abreast on the wavellite

Continued on page 2



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter SYMPOSIUM November 11, 2023 Johnstown, PA FIELD TRIP November 12

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts

Friday evening Nov. 10: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 11: 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**

Expanded Sales by Select Dealers - Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation

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

Sunday Nov. 12: Field Trip to New Paris Quarry. 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

outcrop. Everyone who dug got at least a \$100 value specimen and those who poked around in the main quarry got some nice calcite, strontianite and an occasional celestite. Of the 20 who attended, everyone had a safe and productive rockhounding adventure. See our 2022 Annual Report for more information on FM-PA's 2022 activities and accomplishments last year.

Steve Lindberg, one of our guest speakers and a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus (UPJ) generously offered UPJ to host us for the 2023 Calendar Year. Last month I visited the campus and spoke with Steve and the events planner, discussed the matter with our Board and started drawing up a layout for the dealer area. The Board subsequently voted unanimously to approve the new venue, and we have released our initial advertising flyer (see insert on page 1) on both the website and our new Facebook page. This new venue is a monumental paradigm shift for us, as almost none of our members recall having a symposium outside the Greater Philadelphia-Lancaster City area and we have had symposia every year for more than 50 years.

Most of us will have to do overnight stays and we expect some members will not travel to Johnstown, but we also expect to have attendees and new members we have never had before. The venue, Heritage Hall in the Living and Learning Center and the adjoining alumni meeting area, is several times larger than the largest venue we have had in at least the last 20 years, and the most convenient for access and logistics. We are working on having the cantina open for us and our attendees. We expect to invite 7-10 mineral dealers for the one-day mineral sales event, fill the large display case with member-collected PA Minerals, offer mineral identification and invite all the regional societies, the Geological Survey and industry organizations. We have a lot of planning to do for what will be the largest and most diverse event we have ever held.

That planning includes the field trip to the New Paris Quarry, which has become a field study site for UPJ. This limestone quarry, now inactive, has the Silurian-Devonian boundary exposed, abundant fossils and two bentonite layers. Some of the largest fluorite specimens found in PA came from that quarry though the main vein is currently covered. It was one of the field trip stops of the 2002 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG), and the geology is detailed in the field trip guidebook/road log for that conference.

Steve leads trips to the quarry on a regular basis. I flew the site with my drone and with survey quality aerial targets, made a high resolution aerial orthoimage and topographic map of the quarry last year. I also took a number of measurements on bedrock surfaces including reflectorless total station measurements on joint and fracture planes inaccessible for Brunton compass readings and then processed those measurements to obtain spatially

accurate strike and dip measurements using a spreadsheet modified from one published by SUNY. That research will be presented at the symposium along with the pre-trip safety talk. Speakers and details will be released as planning continues, so stay tuned. If you are nearby you should plan to attend this one.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

FM-PA Chapter Symposium

Nov. 11, 2023 - Johnstown, PA

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter's annual Symposium serves the goal of advancing serious interest in minerals and related activities. The audience includes mineral collectors, professional mineralogists and geologists, 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. Some have an extensive background in mineralogy, and some do not.

If you can make a presentation on a topic of interest to this mixed audience, please submit a short abstract to Chapter President Bill Stephens <bstephens@stephensenv.com>. Topics on Pennsylvania mineralogy are of particular interest. Time slots are approximately 45 minutes including time for questions. This is a hybrid symposium including attendees both in person and via Zoom. Accepted speakers can provide an abstract of up to two illustrated pages for the printed program. We can provide an honorarium of \$100 per presentation.

MEMBERSHIP POLL

Please help the Chapter Board of Directors by responding to this poll. The easiest way is by replying to the poll in the e-mail which conveyed this Newsletter to members.

Or, reply to the Editor (see page 6).

1. Would you attend the FM-PA Symposium in Johnstown Nov. 10-12:
(1) in person, (2) via Zoom, (3) not planning to attend.
2. If attending in person:
 - How many nights would you plan to stay in local hotel?
 - Would you attend a Friday evening meet & greet?
3. Would you be interested in buying FM-PA T-shirts?
4. Do you plan to attend the North Jersey club picnic on Saturday June 10 at Sterling Hill NJ (see page 3)?
5. Would you be interested in attending an FM-PA picnic this summer?

PRESIDENT'S OPEN HOUSE - **RSVP** Sunday April 16

I'm having an open house at my home Sunday April 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Address for driving directions will be provided to interested club members who RSVP my email below. Preregistration via email to <bstephens@stephensenv.com> is **required**; driving directions will then be provided. Sales help support presentations, work like machine digs, and my travel costs to Symposia and Conventions such as Tucson. I have new material from personal collecting and minerals from my recent trip to Tucson. Here's a list of some of the material I have for sale:

- Matrix and single crystal specimens of Wulfenite from the Red Cloud Mine, Yuma AZ. Flats of fluorescent fluorite/willemite matrix with wulfenite for \$100 ea.
 - Nice quality small to medium cabinet size Blue Barite from Morocco (\$65-\$350)
 - Vanadinite from Morocco, nice small-medium cabinet size (\$35-\$75)
 - Medium cabinet size fluorite from China (\$100- \$250)
 - Ammolite! In clear display boxes (\$90 large, \$50, small)
 - Celestite-Stronianite-Calcite in matrix, (all fluorescent, calcite phosphorescent), Thomasville PA,
 - Kentucky Geodes, (Phil Daly's) by the lb.
 - Rose Quartz, Hogg Mine, GA (specimen and tumbling grade) by the lb.
 - Rose Quartz, Hogg Mine, GA (Faceting and cabbing grade, by the Kilo)
 - Wavellite (you know where)
 - Polished slabs (for display and lapidary) Petrified Palm Wood, native copper infused petrified wood,
 - blue opal petrified wood (for lapidary)
 - Moss Agate cabs (High and low end)
 - Amethyst Crystal Clusters, Vera Cruz MX (\$15-\$250)
 - Quartz crystal points from Arkansas (\$10 - \$35), Matrix pieces (<\$100)
 - Miscellaneous specimens various locations
 - Faceting and cabbing rough
 - Specimen and jewelry grade Herkimer "Diamonds"
 - Ruby crystals
 - Few high-end faceted stones (sapphire, kunzite, blue zircon, star rubies, etc)
 - Pyromorphite, Phoenixville
- Lots more. RSVP by email (above) if you are interested in coming.

Bill Stephens PG, FM-PA President

Multi-Club Regional Picnic Saturday, June 10 - Sterling Hill, NJ

North Jersey Mineralogical Society are planning a multi-club get-together at the Sterling Hill Mine Pavilion on Saturday, June 10, 2023. **FM-PA Chapter** President Bill Stephens reports that he is planning to attend.

****RSVP required**** The hosts will need RSVP's so that they can prepare accordingly. Please respond / RSVP to dianatasco@yahoo.com and note you're an FM-PA Chapter member.

The agenda is as follows:

- Meet and Greet will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- You can collect on the 2 front Mine Piles (Mine Run Dump and Worldwide Pile), which includes fluorescents and daylight specimens so you should bring your lamp, if you have one, or you could use the light in the shed that is in the middle of the Worldwide Pile and one of the Mine Run Piles- from 10:00 a.m.-12 noon for a fee of \$5.00 entry plus \$2/lb. (try to keep it to a max of 5 lbs.)

• **12:00 noon Lunch** - \$5.00 per person for hot dogs, hamburgers, and trimmings (tickets will be provided for 1 hotdog & 1 hamburger).

Payment can be made as follows:

Zelle to 201 776-6856, Diana Tasco

Check can be mailed to Diana Tasco, 73 Shore Road, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

• Please **bring your favorite potluck dish or dessert** to be shared by all and whatever you like to drink.

• It is advised that you bring a chair, as only picnic benches are available.

• 1:00 p.m. - Mine Tour for those interested. Tour costs are \$14.00 for adults, \$13.00 for seniors 65+, \$11.00 for children 4-12 years old
Free for children under 4 years old

• You can also bring any specimens from your collections that you would like to swap with other rockhounds.

• We are looking forward to spending time with you all and exchanging ideas and stories.

Orange Planerite from the Lime Ridge Locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania

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

Introduction

The 2022 Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter (FMPA) Symposium field trip was held on November 13, 2022. The location was the Lime Ridge wavellite locality and the National Limestone Quarry No. 2 at Mt. Pleasant Mills in Snyder County, Pennsylvania. Although no new minerals were added to the Lime Ridge list (Sloto, 2022), a few interesting specimens were found.

Analyses were performed at the West Chester University Center for Microanalysis and Imaging, Research and Training (CMIRT). Imaging and chemical analyses were done using an FEI Quanta 400 environmental scanning electron microscope (SEM) integrated with an Oxford AZtec X-ray energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS). The samples were unpolished and uncoated.

Orange Planerite

A massive orange mineral (fig. 1) forming veins in sandstone was found in the west wavellite pit. The veins were up to 1 cm thick. I have not observed these orange veins before, either in the field or in collections. An SEM-EDS analysis showed the orange mineral to be planerite. The orange color likely is caused by the 2.22 wt % iron.



Figure 1. Orange planerite from the Lime Ridge locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, 8 cm.

Colorless Wavellite

Colorless wavellite was abundant. The wavellite occurred in thin veins filling narrow fractures. When the veins were split apart, the **wavellite** showed a radiating pattern (fig. 2). No wavellite spheres or partial spheres were observed; the fractures were not wide enough to allow their formation. The green color of wavellite from Lime Ridge is caused by the presence of vanadium. SEM-EDS analysis of material collected on the field trip showed that the green wavellite contained vanadium, while the colorless wavellite contained no vanadium.



Figure 2. Radiating wavellite from the Lime Ridge locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, 3 cm. The colorless parts lack the chromophore vanadium.

Quartz Crystals and Wavellite in Fossils

The Lime Ridge locality is in the Lower Devonian Ridgeley Member of the Old Port Formation, which is a white, pale gray or buff colored, predominantly medium-grained quartz arenite that is slightly limonitic and fossiliferous; it contains fossils of brachiopods, gastropods, pelecypods, and trilobites. Some of the fossils found on the field trip were filled with clear quartz crystals (fig. 3). One of the quartz crystal filled fossils resembled a miniature geode (fig. 4). One fossil contained quartz crystals and a wavellite sphere (fig. 5). The interlocking terminations of the individual wavellite crystals forming the sphere can be seen on the outside of the sphere.



Figure 3. Quartz crystals filling a fossil from the Lime Ridge locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania. Specimen on left side is 7.3 cm.



Figure 4. Quartz crystals filling a fossil and forming a geode-like structure from the Lime Ridge locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, 4.5 cm.

Reference

Sloto, R.A., 2022, Phosphate Minerals from Lime Ridge, Snyder County, Pennsylvania: The Mineralogical Record, volume 53, number 5, p. 649-656.



Figure 5. Wavelite sphere inside a fossil from the Lime Ridge locality, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, Pennsylvania. Specimen on left side is 4 cm. Wavelite sphere is 1.1 cm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Some events are still being rescheduled.
Confirm details of events before attending.**

April, 2023: New Jersey shows & events - see:
<https://nojms.webs.com/upcomingshowsevents.htm>

April 21-23, 2023: 50th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. <https://rasny.org/mineral-section>

May 6 - 7, 2023: Annual NEPA/Scranton Gem & Mineral Show, St. Josephs Oblates, Rt. 315 Yatesville PA (outside Pittston).

June 3, 2023: Spring Mineralfest, by PESA. Sat. only, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

June 10, 2023: Multi-club picnic, Sterling Hill, NJ: page 3.

July 7-9, 2023: EFMLS Annual Convention in Syracuse, hosted by Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY.

July 22-23, 2023: Christmas in July Extravaganza, by Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club. Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA.

See facebook LancasterFossilandMineralClub

August 3-6, 2023: AFMS and Northwest Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Convention, Billings, Montana.

Nov. 10-12, 2023: Friends of Mineralogy- PA Chapter Symposium, Johnstown, PA. Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts. Fri. eve. Meet & Greet; Sat. Hybrid Symposium - Online or In Person; Sun. field trip. SEE PAGE 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 Summer issue should be submitted by **June 1**.

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.

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.

FM on the WWW

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

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

Facebook - Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania
submit facebook posts to Andrew (see below)

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/>

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Administrative Directory

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair	Ron Sloto
Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott
Web Manager	Ron Sloto
Facebook Manager	"Andrew Rockhound" Eppig
Newsletter Editor	David Glick

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

xidg@verizon.net

(814) 810-2116

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



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER



VOL. 51 No. 2

SEPTEMBER 2023

Plan NOW to Attend:

**SYMPOSIUM on
Pennsylvania Mineralogy
& Geology, and
First Annual SHOW
at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown**

Meet & Greet Friday Nov. 10
Friday evening at the Sleep Inn. Show off
your most significant find of the summer.

**Mineral, Gem & Fossil SHOW
Sat. Nov. 11 FREE ADMISSION**
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Conference Center,
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown.
40 tables of dealers with fascinating merchandise

SYMPOSIUM Sat. Nov. 11
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.

Field Trip Sun. Nov. 12 Departs 9:30 a.m.
Open only to Symposium registrants who attend Friday
afternoon safety briefing in person or online. Safety
equipment will be required on the trip.
JOIN US! -



Conference Center at the Living-Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown.

S. Lindberg photo

The Symposium will have informative talks by knowledgeable speakers on minerals, geology and mining in Pennsylvania and beyond (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 presentation scheduled to conclude at 5:00 p.m. All interested mineral collectors are invited to register and attend.

As usual, the Symposium will include a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts. To keep costs down, we are not providing refreshments this year.

REGISTRATION is open now by mail or internet.

The registration form is available on the web site

<https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/>

On site registration on Saturday November 11 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.)

LODGING: Blocks of hotel rooms are being held at three establishments; see page 2. Note the October 10 or 20 reservation deadlines.

LUNCH: There are several possibilities for lunch: Order a box lunch to be delivered to the building (\$16, order must be received by Nov. 4, see registration form); walk to brunch buffet at the campus dining hall, \$16 payable on site, no reservation needed; and several restaurants are within short driving distance.

continued on page 2



Welcome! This is the main entrance lobby where all attendees will enter, registration and information tables will be here, large area for exhibit tables. *S. Lindberg photo*

SYMPOSIUM *continued from page 1*

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS: Five 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>

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

scheduled for Saturday include:

William Kochanov, PG

Gypsum Occurrence in the Lower Pennsylvanian Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree

Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky

Dr. Robert J. Altamura

A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the effect of Superimposed Polysynthetic Twinning

Chris Howard, Aleya Shreckengost, and Dr. Ryan Kerrigan

The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Aleya Shreckengost

Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems

William Stephens, PG and Stephen R. Lindberg
Minerals and Geological Investigations at the New Paris Quarry, Pennsylvania



Mineral Show - picture this room filled with 40 tables of mineral, gem & fossil vendors! S. Lindberg photo

LODGING

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for November 10, 11 and 12 at three hotels for attendees of the 2023 Symposium. They are being held on a first come, first served basis. **Note the October 10 or 20 reservation deadlines.**

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

15 rooms reserved under "FOM" \$130 + tax per night

Must reserve by October 20

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

15 rooms reserved under "FOM", 2 queen beds at

\$124.99 plus tax

Must reserve by October 10

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

15 rooms reserved under "FOM"

\$85 per night, 2 double beds.

Must reserve by October 10



Symposium - picture this room filled with fellow collectors, and fascinating presentations on Pennsylvania minerals on the screen! S. Lindberg photo

FM National News

See the March and June Bulletins
on the web

<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>

In the March 2023 issue:

In the President's Message, Mark Jacobson reviews the activities and awards from the February Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and the FM Symposium. Sean Stimac of Ohio introduces himself as the new Editor. Minutes of the February 10 Annual Board Meeting are presented, with lots of useful and interesting items being discussed. Awards for articles and exhibits are announced (see below). The theme of the 42nd Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium, February 10, 2024, will be: Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful.

2022 BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Friends of Mineralogy provide checks for \$200 to the magazines in honor of the authors. (The odd number of judges for these awards are kept anonymous and are known only to the Vice-President; her job is to compile the results.)

The Mineralogical Record

Thomas P. Moore, Mark H. F. Mauthner, and Wendell Wilson for
History, Mines and Minerals of the Mogok Stone Tract, Mandalay Division, Burma

Rocks and Minerals

Peter Megaw, Evan A. Jones, Bruce Cairncross, and Malcolm Southwood for
Connoisseur's Choice: Malachite Pseudomorphs after Azurite - Part 2: Milpillas, Mexico and Other Worldwide Localities

Mineral News

Dan Evanich and Philippe Roth for
The Majuba Hill Mine, Pershing County, Nevada: A Source of Superb Secondary Copper Minerals

The Kay Robertson Educational Awards



The Kay Robertson Educational Award at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show was presented for the best institutional educational exhibit to the Rice Museum of Rocks & Minerals, Hillsboro, Oregon for its display "Oregon Thunder Eggs."



The Kay Robertson Educational Award for the best non-institutional educational exhibit was presented to John Rakovan, Socorro, New Mexico for his display "Sheet silicates: Inquiring minds want to know what's going on between the sheets." The museum and individual had their award certificates mailed to them.

In the June 2023 issue:

President Mark Jacobson discusses many mineral shows, conferences, and workshops. "...the Southern California Chapter with Bill Stephens of the Pennsylvania chapter helping, are preparing and submitting comments to allow mineral collecting in the Mohave Trails National Monument. It will be an uphill challenge convincing the regulators. Bill Stephens and colleagues will keep FM informed." This project is discussed further in that issue, and Bill Stephens has provided related updates in the EFMLS Newsletter (see page 4). Extensive information on the 21st Annual Pegmatite Workshop and the Denver Mineral Show is provided.

**EFMLS President's
Message**
from Bill Stephens
EFMLS News Sept. 2023



Wow! What a busy summer since my last message. The Executive Board (EB) has not had a recurring meeting since May due mainly to the Annual Meeting of the EFMLS Convention hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse (GMSS) in Syracuse, NY July 7-9, 2023, and the Annual Meeting of the AFMS hosted by the Rocky Mountain Federation in Billings, Montana August 3-6, 2023.

A quorum was present for the EFMLS Annual Meeting. Reports were submitted in advance by the EB officers and most committee chairs, and those reports were included in the Program prepared by Beverly Eisenacher, Program Secretary Pro Temp. David Glick, President of the Nittany club who was previously appointed Recording Secretary Pro Temp by me, recorded the meeting minutes of the annual meeting and awards banquet. The meeting was hybrid, and some joined us via Zoom. Here's some of the highlights from the EFMLS Convention:

- The proposed officer slate was adopted as presented (see new officers for 2023-2024 elsewhere herein) which included a second and final term for me as President. Mrs. Sylvia Eppig was nominated from the floor and elected to succeed Barbara Ringhiser as Treasurer for the 2023-2025 2- year term.
- The proposed Bylaws Changes were adopted without any further modification. Following adoption of the bylaws with the change creating the social media director as a permanent executive board voting member, Andrew Eppig was nominated from the floor and elected to fill that position immediately and for the coming term.
- The proposed 2023-2024 Budget prepared by 1st VP Larry Huffman was adopted without any changes.
- At the awards Banquet, Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee (BEAC) awards and awards for club growth and the like were presented. Award recipient details are included elsewhere herein. Six EFMLS clubs participated in BEAC. Any of our 92 clubs can participate.
- I announced the recipients of the EFMLS portion of the two \$4,000 AFMS Scholarships. Both are PhD candidates doing important mineralogical research.
- Your President, Bill Stephens, PG gave a presentation on Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining (MVMM) at the annual awards banquet. The Syracuse club, our host, was kind enough to have Lee Levesque, a club member and Herkimer miner, join us for the dinner and join my talk. Lee recently (Memorial Day weekend I believe) discovered several (two in particular) magnificent,

world class and huge skeletal, fenster and mud-included Herkimer crystals at MVMM. He was so kind to bring the 28 pound "Herkules" and 14 pound "Medusa" crystals to our dinner for show and tell. Both



Lee Levesque holding the skeletal Herkimer after removal from the pocket

along with other finds were on display at the Syracuse Show held during our convention. [Note: I was able to help Lee get an invite to display these specimens at the 2024 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and he has already been contacted by the American Museum of Natural History, so these are in fact champions of the species from this new mine. Also, I plan to convert my

presentation after some further editing to a movie on MVMM that you will be able to access from YouTube hopefully before the Tucson show.]

I was a vendor at the Syracuse Show and let me say it was a great show at the fairgrounds. I did well, and the setup was a bit rough for me showing up late just an hour and a half before it started Saturday, but the breakdown was so easy, literally driving in and up to my tables. Wish they were all like that. I also wish I could have pressed the flesh more but that's OK.

I must send a warm thank you to the GMSS staff and officers who were excellent hosts and great help at the show. Special thanks to Show Chair Cheryl Brown and Show Coordinator Dick Lyons and the fellow who was set up with lapidary demo across from my tables. We chatted quite a bit throughout the show.

This year is the second year in a row that I have done both the show as a dealer and run the hybrid meeting, this year as your President, with assistance from Andrew. Let me tell you it's incredibly hectic and demanding, but also rewarding insofar as I learn so much more about the host club by participating in their show than I would otherwise. The GMSS definitely has it going on.

In other developments:

1. As of this writing, the EFMLS has 92 member organizations with a total of 8257 adults and 957 juniors for a total of 9,214 people! Amazing recovery and we are off and running forward at full speed.
2. The EFMLS is currently finalizing plans to arrange to pay to offer the Diamond Dan publications to all

our member organizations. If you currently receive this publication, you will be notified that the cost of your subscription will be transferred to EFMLS once this goes in place.

3. Mailing lists will be extracted from the club profiles each month by the 25th of the month and provided to key officers, including the editor, so the right people get the newsletter and any correspondence and special announcements. It continues to be the responsibility of each of our member organizations to keep their profile information current. Use your login information to access and update your profile. If you continue to have technical difficulties, either appoint a liaison within your organization who is tech savvy or contact webmaster@efmls.org for assistance.
4. The Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM) issue saw so much input from rockhounds and their organizations that they (the “gummint”) have decided to evaluate alternatives and put it back out for public comment next year. That’s a huge, if temporary, win for all of us field collectors as they were about to close all 1.6 million acres, including many classic collecting sites, to all collecting. Make no mistake, this is as much a problem for us as it is for the locals in SoCal and western AZ. This is a national effort to close BLM land and forest service lands to all collecting and we need to support our brethren. Some of you may recall the Mallovs Bay expansion we opposed that would have prevented school kids and everyone from collecting fossils on the shores of the Potomac River. I sent a letter opposing the MTNM closure with detailed reasoning for both the FM-PA/FM-National and the EFMLS. As Conservation and Legislation Committee Chair I’ll stay on it. Anyone interested in more info contact me at President@efmls.org.
5. The EFMLS is still looking for a host club for 2024. We would appreciate a volunteer. FM-PA is just too small.

I am STILL calling for volunteers to chair any of the following standing committees that have no current chair: All American Award, audit/review, Eastern Foundation Fund, Historian, Legal Advisory, Operating Procedures, Website contest, Ways & Means. All committees except the nominating committee can use volunteers.

The benefits of being an EFMLS club is getting connected with other clubs, coordinating multi-club events, advertising your events and increasing your membership through our outreach programs. Help us make it all work for you!

Sincerely,
Bill Stephens, PG. EFMLS President, Region IV
RVP, Webmaster, & FM-PA President

EFMLS News 2023 Syracuse Convention Report

Ellery Borow

EFMLS News Sept. 2023

EFMLS 2023 Syracuse, New York Convention – It’s more than Meetings, Minutes, Meals, and Minerals.

Eastern Federation Conventions always begin with adventures. The 2023 Convention began with a pleasant drive west to New York on Interstate 90 (New York Thruway). Along the way to the convention, I once again passed exits for Herkimer. A mental note was made to someday add a visit to that area to do some “Herkimer Diamond” collecting at one of the many world-famous digging sites. Next along the way was a rest stop at the Erie Canal Lock Number 13 and a visit to its museum.

Upon arriving at the Convention’s host hotel, I met and spoke with several member club people and Eastern Federation officers. There are always great feelings associated with such gatherings. It feels like being with family.

Friday, July 7th at four o’clock the convention started with the “Cracker Barrel” meeting. The Cracker Barrel session is not so much an official meeting but any one of several possible gatherings – it could be about discussions of a single topic of concern to clubs, an opportunity to discuss items to be voted upon at the upcoming directors meeting, a forum of Q&A about Federation business, a learning session about the Federation website, or something else. This particular Cracker Barrel focused mostly on matters of youth activity – not just of young members but also those young at heart. Discussed this time were the offerings of Diamond Dan publications, youth membership in our clubs, encouraging youth programs and activities, youth participation, and encouraging youth groups in our clubs.

Following the Cracker Barrel was a short break for dinner, during which I enjoyed speaking with several attendees about activity in their clubs and things they have planned for the future.

Federation activity resumed with the Annual Board of Directors meeting. Please see the report of the meeting’s minutes printed elsewhere. The primary purposes of the annual meeting are of reviewing reports of Federation officers and committee activity; discussion, revision and approval of expenditures and a proposed budget for 2023-2024; review of bylaw corrections and amendments; discussion of new business; and the election of next years’ Federation officers. After the close of the official business

there was a meet and greet with the new officers and general gathering in a hospitality suite. This last gathering was a particularly useful time to get to know the new officers and discuss ideas about working in and improving the Federation – as well as catching up with friends. Saturday morning began with selecting breakfast from the host hotel's many excellent offerings and entering the room of the Editors Breakfast. There we had opportunities to speak with several club editors. Before the official proceedings, there are often a great many ideas exchanged among the gathered editors. We also had a bit of discussion of the SCRIBE organization (Special Congress of Involved Bulletin Editors). The meeting began with an enlightened discussion about the important role of editors and webmasters in our clubs. Next were a couple games to present some prizes to those gathered. Then came the presentation of the BEAC (Bulletin Editors Advisory Council) awards to the winners in the annual Bulletin Editor and Author awards. Many of this year's winners were in the room and every winner received rounds of applause. At the close of the breakfast, we were invited visit the GMSS show and received excellent directions on how to get there for those of us without GPS devices.

Saturday continued with a trip the New York State Fairgrounds and a very warm welcome by members of the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse volunteering at their club's 56th Annual Gem World Show titled – New York Rocks. And wow, what a wonderful welcome it was! Friendly smiling faces were seemingly everywhere. Each was wearing the yellow shirt signifying they were show/club volunteers.

The show was held in a large exhibition hall at the fairgrounds. Attendees were first presented with smiles followed by a flyer indicating the layout of activities, dealers and demonstrations. Naturally, concerned with the hobby's future, I first visited the Youth Area/Kid's Korner. Again Wow, the exuberance, activity, enjoyment, wide eyes and excitement was super encouraging – and that was with the volunteers helping in the area. The excitement and smiles were even greater on the kids visiting the activities (which included a sluice, soapstone carving, slate engraving, make a bracelet, and treasure hunt). Clearly everyone was engaged, interested, joy-filled, and dedicated to the kids! It felt wonderful to see all that activity. But I had to move on, there was a lot more to see and do, which included: speaking with volunteers at the club booth, admiring the effort with the many educational and extraordinary exhibits, speaking with the demonstrators, visiting the metaphysical center, having the pleasure of

meeting "Rock Doc", speaking with the volunteers at the Paleontological Research institution and visiting the wholesale area. In addition to all that there were Learning Center speakers and an Eastern Federation auction with "good stuff" (with proceeds to help support the not-for-profit Eastern Federation Foundation Fund). To offer a word of summary the show was exhilarating, educational, engaging, filled with smiling volunteers, curious, engaging, informative, and energetic. Yes, that is more than one word, but just one word would not suffice, not at all.

The convention had yet more to it. Saturday evening was an awards banquet with a choice of several great entrees. Following the dinner came a reading of the history of the specially presented Eastern Federation's United States of America Flag and its presentation case. Awards were presented for Each One Teach One, and the "M" (membership) awards. Next came the installation of officers. Capping the evenings activities was a wonderfully presented and illustrated talk of the Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining activity by Eastern Federation President Bill Stephens followed by a talk and showing of the enormous skeletal Herkimer diamond that was on display at the show. It was incredible! Toward the close of the banquet was an activity indicative of the creativity and ingenuity of the members of the GMSS. There was a presentation of amazing table favors to those gathered at the banquet. The favors were the combined effort of many club members. The favors were of a slab of blue calcite with a copper wire gem tree on them, and was displayed on a decorative presentation stand. Wow. And Thank You!

As I had to return home the day after the Awards Banquet, I will leave it to others to describe the amazing field trip offerings of the GMSS and Eastern Federation. Attendees had the choice of: Trip one – Syracuse Salt Museum, Trip two – PRI – Paleontological Research Institution, or Trip three – digging at the Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining site.

All in all, this, together, made another great convention. There were, as usual, an enormous number of details and activities behind the making of this convention. Every bit of effort by the large number of dedicated volunteers is greatly appreciated. I would encourage clubs to please consider attending an Eastern Federation Convention, to represent your club interests and make your club's voice heard, as well as make many new friends or renew old friendships. Thank you again to the members and officers of the GMSS and the Eastern Federation.

Respectfully, Ellery Borow. President WOGMS

Autumn Mineralfest

mineral, fossil, and gem show

Over one hundred tables loaded with minerals, fossils, crystals, geodes, gemstones, and gemstone jewelry from six continents and outer space

Saturday, 7 October 2023

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Macungie, Pennsylvania

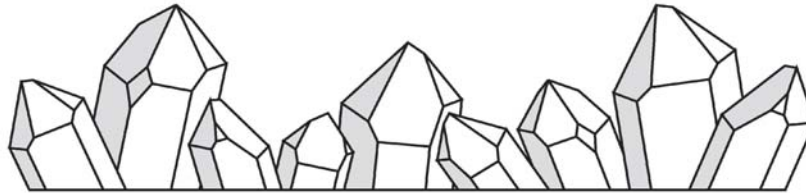
Macungie Memorial Park – 50 N. Poplar Street

FREE ADMISSION and free parking

Rain or shine - over 50 vendors indoors, outdoor tailgate section weather permitting

Family oriented - younger attendees encouraged

Fluorescent mineral exhibit by courtesy of the Franklin Mineral Museum



mineralfest.com

Sponsored by the
Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization

PESA is a Lehigh Valley based group of mineral and fossil collectors, gemstone and lapidary artisans, and other earth science enthusiasts.



facebook

Central PA Rock and Mineral Club's 57th Annual

GEM MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

September 23 & 24, 2023

Sat. 10 am-6 pm

Sun. 10 am-4 pm

Harrisburg Consistory

2701 North Third Street

Uptown Harrisburg, PA (Next to Zembo)

Admission \$5/Per Person*

***With this Postcard or Ad**

Valid for up to 4 Admissions

Children 12 & Under FREE

with Paying Adult

(Regular Admission \$6/Per Person)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Sept. 23-24, 2023: 57th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, by Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club. Harrisburg Consistory, 2701 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. See <https://rockandmineral.org/annual-show/>

Oct. 7, 2023: Autumn Mineralfest, by PA Earth Sciences Assoc. Macungie Memorial Park, 50 N Poplar St., Macungie PA. 8:30 - 3:00, Sat. only. See <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

Oct. 28, 2023: Ultraviolet 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>

Oct. 28, 2023: 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

Nov. 4-5, 2023: Gemarama, Theme: World of Quartz, by Tuscarora Lapidary Soc. HALL D at the Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456. Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Online ticketing now available. Full details at <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

November 10-12, 2023: Friends of Mineralogy- PA Chapter Symposium, Johnstown, PA. Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts. Friday evening Meet & Greet; Saturday Hybrid Symposium - Online or In Person, and Mineral Show; Sunday field trip. SEE PAGES 1-2.

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 October issue should be submitted by **October 1**.

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.

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.

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>

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Administrative Directory

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

xidg@verizon.net

(814) 810-2116

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



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER



VOL. 51 No. 3

OCTOBER 2023

Plan NOW to Attend:

**SYMPOSIUM on
Pennsylvania Mineralogy
& Geology, and
First Annual SHOW
at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown**

Meet & Greet Friday Nov. 10

Friday evening, 6:00 p.m. at the Sleep Inn
(see p. 2), and rock give-away by UPJ. Show
off your most significant find of the summer.

**Mineral, Gem & Fossil SHOW
Sat. Nov. 11 FREE 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. 11

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. Seven
presentations (see page 2), Annual Meeting of the
membership & elections, silent auction, giveaway table.

UPDATE: Morning coffee and pastries in the Varsity
Room included, thanks to an anonymous donor!

Field Trip Sun. Nov. 12 Departs 9:30 a.m.

Open only to Symposium registrants who attend (NOTE
THIS CORRECTION) **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 (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 at 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.



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

Advance REGISTRATION is open now by mail or
internet; the form and payment must be received by the
Treasurer by **November 8** (Nov. 4 for those with box
lunch orders). The registration form is available on the
web site <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/>

On site registration on Saturday November 11 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 **lunch:**
Order a box lunch to be delivered to the building (\$16,
order must be received by Nov. 4, see registration
form); walk to brunch buffet at the campus dining hall,
\$16 payable on site, no reservation needed; Subway on
campus; grill station in the student union; and several
restaurants are within short driving distance.

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

NEW IN THIS NEWSLETTER - DON'T MISS:

"I am so excited for our upcoming symposium"
- FM-PA President's Message, page 3

Symposium to include brief **Annual Meeting and
elections** - page 2

Driving & parking directions - page 3

continued on page 2

SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1

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: UPDATE: 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>

LODGING

The following three hotels are nearby, and others are in the area.

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

**SYMPOSIUM
PRESENTATIONS**

scheduled for Saturday:

William Kochanov, PG

Gypsum Occurrence in the Lower Pennsylvanian Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree

Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky

Dr. Robert J. Altamura, PG

A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the effect of Superimposed Polysynthetic Twinning

William Stephens, PG, and Stephen R. Lindberg

Geology & Mineralogy of the New Paris Quarry with Emphasis on Structural and stratigraphic relationships as assessed using Modern Mapping Techniques (Parts 1 and 2)

Chris Howard, Aleya Shreckengost, and Dr. Ryan Kerrigan

The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Aleya Shreckengost

Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems

Dr. Christopher Coughenour and Stephen R. Lindberg
Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian- inland sea at the New Paris quarry, Bedford County, Pennsylvania

Field Trip & Safety Instructions: **Attendance required** (in person or via Zoom) for field trip participants

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

The Symposium will include a brief ANNUAL MEETING of the membership of the Corporation, including elections. Incumbents Mike Dunton and David Glick, and new candidate Mark Sigouin, are standing for election to the Board of Directors.



Green and purple fluorite from New Paris Quarry, Bedford County, PA.
Approx. 5 inches. D. Glick photo & specimen, ex-Pen Ambler, ex-Ed Carper.

FM-PA President's Message

Bill Stephens, PG, President FM-PA & EFMLS

Hello everyone. I am so excited for our upcoming symposium scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 11 & 12, 2023 with an informal get together on Friday evening the 10th at the Sleep Inn. We have blocks of hotel rooms reserved at several hotels in the area for your convenience. This year's Symposium on Saturday the 11th is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus Geology Department/Club at the University's Living and Learning Center Heritage Hall, a venue three times the size we normally have! Plus, we have the alumni center set up for registration and poster sessions. The main hall is divided in half so the symposium (which will have 6 talks for 6CEUs/PDHs for Professional Geologists this year rather than the usual 5 talks) will be in one half, and the other half will be devoted to a show with several dealers, open to the general public for free! The talks will focus on the Silurian and Devonian rocks, minerals and fossils of the New Paris quarry with other talks on Minerals of Pennsylvania including collectible minerals of Oak Hall quarry and other locations in Centre County. Displays of Pennsylvania minerals and our silent auction will be available.

This year is a year of firsts for FM-PA:

- First time in more than half of our history the Symposium has been held outside our "comfort zone" of the western Philly-Lancaster Area.
- First time our Symposium has ever been hosted by a major PA university (not just held at, but hosted by).
- The first time we've ever had a venue this large, this modern, this accessible and this well prepared for hybrid meetings.
- First time we've invited non-members to sell at the show and opened it to the public for free!
- First time we've had an army of college students attend, assist, and participate.
- First time we've ever had a demonstration of modern mapping techniques applied to pits and quarries.
- Probably the first time we have had original research by college students that pertains to our field trip locality presented at the symposium prior to the field trip.
- First time we will have live and pre-recorded interviews with dealers, our speakers, and hosts on our Facebook Page and on YouTube.

And much more. This year we have really focused our symposium on our field trip venue and there will be numerous talks at the symposium in preparation for the field trip on Sunday. For professional geologists, particularly those interested in mineralogy, geology and paleontology of the upper Silurian lower Devonian of PA

who may have intended to attend the Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists that was cancelled, this is your chance to get 6 CEUs/PDHs for as little as \$15.00! Maybe it's time to Join FM-PA and stay up to speed on what we are doing and how we contribute to fun and scholarly geological/mineralogical work in Pennsylvania!

The field trip will be held Sunday, the day after the symposium, at the New Paris Quarry, not 25 minutes from the campus. Many of our Pennsylvania collectors are aware that the quarry has produced some very nice fluorite from the calcite veins in the limestone. This quarry is now a field teaching locality for UPJ. Weather permitting we'll have a drone mapping demonstration and a remote strike and dip measurement demonstration using a robotic total station onsite during the field trip event.

I and our Board are so excited to bring this extraordinary event to our members and others. If you can't physically make it, join us via zoom after registering. Check out our live and pre-recorded broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube.

Hope to see you there!

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/>, which also shows location & parking for evening rock give-aways at Krebs Hall.

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. 8) if you can provide any of these.

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.

EFMLS Social Media Update

by Andrew Rockhound

EFMLS Social Media Director

Our new Facebook page "Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies" is up and running, please Like, Follow and Share! It's at <<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>>. The earlier EFMLS Shows and Events page at <<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>> is still going strong. We are posting upcoming events to both pages, but focusing more on positive outreach like club activities, field trip highlights and member spotlights for the new page. Does your club have a new "Rockhound of the Year"? Send us a pic and description! We need you and your club to send us your photos, so we can post them, so just use the message button on the page to send us your content. The page is only as good as the clubs who participate in sharing content! Please don't send us stuff to sell, or spam. Let's get this page rolling by members following it, from all the clubs in the Federation!

Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN FM-PA Annual Symposium and MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter
SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 11, 2023 - Field Trip Nov. 12
Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

FIRST 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. 10: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 11: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**

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

Seven talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** concentrating on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy & Geology** and more:
Gypsum Occurrence in the Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, PA - by William Kochanov, PG
Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky - by Dr. Andrew Sicree
A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the Effect of Twinning - by Dr. Robert Altamura, PG
Geology & Mineralogy of the New Paris Quarry with Emphasis on Structural and stratigraphic relationships as assessed using Modern Mapping Techniques - by Bill Stephens, PG, and Stephen R. Lindberg
The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in SW PA - by C Howard, A Schreckengost, Dr. R Kerrigan
Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian-Devonian inland sea...New Paris quarry...PA - by C. Coughenour & S. Lindberg
Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems - by Aleya Schreckengost

Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Meet Fellow Collectors - Rock Giveaway by UP-J
Professional Geologists: Six Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 12 New Paris Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants. Register now!

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

FM National & Chapters News

See the September Bulletin on the web
<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>
 for these stories and more:

A bureaucracy story with a happy ending: FM is incorporated in California; because of delinquent paperwork due to various situations including Covid, address changes, officer changes, and mail apparently lost in a California mountain blizzard, their tax-free status was in jeopardy. The current officers got it straightened out, and all is well.

FM-Virginia Chapter is becoming Minerals in Context, and will remain part of FM (Sept. Bulletin, p. 13-15). "We chose this name because it embodies our commitment to education about minerals in their context as sources of critical materials, for their chemical and physical properties, as records of planetary histories, as inspiration for industrial materials, of health and safety issues, of culture (high and popular), and last, but not least, their beauty."

FM-New Jersey: Lots of activities!

FM-Pacific Northwest Symposium livestream Oct. 20-22.



In conjunction with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society®, Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to announce the **42nd Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium**.

Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful *Saturday, February 10, 2024*

Nine speakers have volunteered to give talks at the joint pegmatite symposium. The abstract booklet with the schedule for the talks will be posted online soon after it is completed, prior to December 2023. The speakers and their titles are listed below in no particular order.

- Michael Menzies – Gem pegmatites
- David London - Gem-Forming Cavities in Pegmatites
- Robert F. Martin - Cleavelandite: only crystals small and beautiful
- Michael Wise - Pegmatites: Earth's Most Amazing Rocks
- Markus Raschke - The South Platte pegmatite district of Colorado: new insights into mineralogy, petrogenesis, and rare-earth element fractionation
- Myles Felch - Maine's spodumene-bearing pegmatites
- Peter Lyckberg - Chamber Pegmatites of Volyn, Ukraine
- Roy Bassoo - Trace elements in Texas topaz and their petrogenetic significance
- Calvin Mako (speaker) and Carson Richardson - Geochronology of REE-bearing Proterozoic pegmatites in the Arizona pegmatite belt



**EFMLS President's
Message**
from Bill Stephens
EFMLS News October 2023



OK, so I went to Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining (MVMM) last weekend (September 16 & 17) for a serious ledge busting effort, found nothing of consequence and came back early empty handed with a upper respiratory thing. I had intended to stay through Thursday the 21st. Not very fun and of course it always costs me to be away from the business for any length of time. But that's not the whole story.

Brian Major the Crystal Collector and his little Shih Tzu dog Matrix were in attendance and multiple pockets were revealed for MVMM machine dig guests. I guess the mission was to utilize Brian's extensive social media viewership to advertise the mine and the event, and it appeared to be successful for the owner. Our Social Media Director Andrew Rockhound "Dirtman" was also in attendance, along with Lee Levesque, who recently found multiple world-class museum-grade skeletal Herkimer Diamonds at MVMM. Those three goofs did a video with one of Lee's big skeletals like they were playing football, LOL. [Definitely check out Dirtman Reports, Crystal Collector videos and my videos/pics on FB from this event.]



Vicki Cover and Peanut with her Mohawk Monster from earlier this year.

I'm sort of the unofficial geologist for the mine, and I did a little bit of research/mapping but spent several days busting ledge in the skeletal zone with Nick Andrews. We opened a pocket with what would have been a giant skeletal crystal, but due to profuse rod-like fluid inclusions it had exploded into 30 or more pieces in the pocket long before we popped it open. A heartbreaker for sure. The pieces weighed over 30 pounds. I'm sure, considering the amount of ledge we removed, statistically the next guy in should hit a pocket quickly. Rain and feeling bad drove me off the ledge (LOL) early.



Fragment of a 30lb+ Skeletal Herkimer that exploded in the pocket (above), and Nick Andrews removing more and more pieces (below).



The community of collectors who come to MVMM often attended the usual fireside chats and dinners after hours and we all had a great time. Sometimes I think it's as much about the camaraderie and connections with others we make at these events as it is about the crystals. I got to converse with members of several EFMLS clubs including two Connecticut clubs. It's also cool to see the Starlink satellites and the space station go over while around the fire.



Examples of stunning fluorites from a new pocket discovery at the Blanchard Mine, NM, recovered by Mike and Bradley of "Twoguysonhole".

The last two weekends, first at Earth Bling and then at MVMM, I have met several new friends for life, including some young miners Mike and Bradley of "twoguysonhole" who excavated a very large pocket of stepped green and purple-skinned fluorite, some with galena, brochantite, chrysocolla, and other minerals, from the Blanchard Mine in New Mexico. I'll be working with them on marketing the specimens. They have material that will be on display at the Socorro Symposium in November. Also working with Tommy Greene of the North Jersey club on some prospects. I believe they will all be at Tucson with me in February. Time to book an Air B&B ??.

Quick note on the first ever annual Earth Bling Mineral and Music Fest put on by my friends Shane & Sherri Moore of Area 51 Miners: What a blast! Most times when we vend at mineral shows there's little time to talk with other vendors and just relax, but with the after hours get together Saturday night, many of us who knew each other casually got to know each other much better and to have a great time without worrying about our stuff. Live music, adult bev's, food and the company made it an event worth attending. The Blue Arrow Farm in Pine Creek, New York, just across the state line from New Jersey, is a great venue to hold an event even if a bit removed from major cities. This event was not sponsored specifically by an EFMLS organization, but the sponsors and most vendors are members or officers in several of our member organizations. I encouraged Shane and Sherri to figure out a way to have one or more EFMLS clubs co-sponsor next year so we can get the word out.

The Executive Board (EB) had an unofficial recurring meeting last month where we discussed finalizing edits to the automated directory and to start on the Operations Manual. That conversation will continue this coming meeting. ❄

Denver Mineral Show photos

from Bulletin
of FM, June 2023

A extraordinary amethyst scepter from a little known locality, north of Coaldale, near Little Badger Creek, Fremont County. Exhibited in a joint case of the Best of Colorado by Bryan Lees and David Bunk.

Mark Jacobson photo.



The Dragon gold specimen, Colorado Quartz Mine, Mariposa County, California. This specimen is usually on display in the Houston Museum of Natural Science. In 2022, it was exhibited at the Hardrock Summit.

Mark Jacobson photo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Oct. 28, 2023: Ultraviolation 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>

Oct. 28, 2023: 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

October 28-29, 2023 – 2nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Meteorite Show. Mount Bethel Fire Hall, next to the Mount Bethel Firehouse. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. 2341 N. Delaware Dr. (AKA Rt. 611), Mount Bethel, PA 18343. See Facebook Mount Bethel Gem Show

Nov. 4-5, 2023: Gemarama, Theme: World of Quartz, by Tuscarora Lapidary Soc. HALL D at the Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456. Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Online ticketing now available. Full details at <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

November 10-12, 2023: Friends of Mineralogy- PA Chapter Symposium, Johnstown, PA. Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts. Friday evening Meet & Greet; Saturday Hybrid Symposium - Online or In Person, and Mineral Show; Sunday field trip. SEE PAGES 1-3.

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 **December 1**.

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.

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>

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Administrative Directory

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

xidg@verizon.net

(814) 810-2116

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

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Symposium & Show

by David Glick

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown provided a very welcoming venue for FM-PA's annual symposium for mineral collectors on November 11, 2023. See Bill Stephens' report and the list of speakers and activities in the flyer on pages 6-8.

For the first time, there was a small but full-fledged mineral, fossil and gem show associated with the symposium; ten vendors had a wide variety of Pennsylvania and world-wide items. A silent auction and a giveaway table provided other opportunities for acquisition. There was also a showcase of some impressive Pennsylvania specimens from a private collection.

Multiple presentations concerned the New Paris quarry, the site of the symposium field trip on Sunday, Nov. 12 (see photo on page 8).

For more on FM-PA Symposia, see the programs and past newsletters on the **web site**, rasloto.com/FM/

DUES are DUE

It's that time of year - a new membership year starts on January 1. If our records as of December 3 show that you have not renewed, a dues form is included with this newsletter. Thank you to all of those who have renewed or will renew; we value your membership!



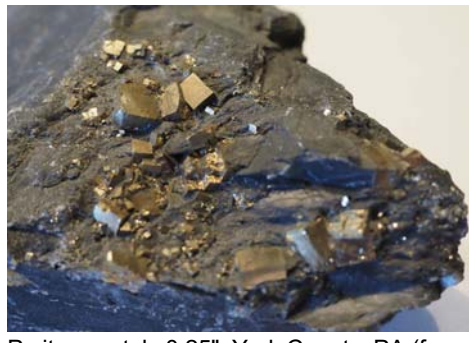
Goethite, Montgomery County, PA, 2" and 3"
(from giveaway table)



Fluorite in calcite, New Paris quarry, Bedford County, PA, 3" across (from mineral show)



Amethyst crystal termination, 2", Chester County, PA, (from silent auction)



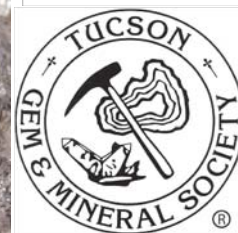
Pyrite, crystals 0.25", York County, PA (from mineral show)



Amazonite, Teller County, Colorado, 1" (from mineral show)



This view shows about two-thirds of the mineral, fossil, and gem show. *Photos by D. Glick*



from

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

In conjunction with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society®, Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to announce the

42nd Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium.

Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful
Saturday, February 10, 2024

Nine speakers have volunteered to give talks at the joint pegmatite symposium. The abstract booklet with the schedule for the talks is now available online via a link at

<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>. **By January 2, that page should also have a link for registering to view the symposium online on February 10.**

The speakers and their titles are listed below in no particular order.

- Michael Menzies – Gem pegmatites
- David London - Gem-Forming Cavities in Pegmatites
- Robert F. Martin - Cleavelandite: only crystals small and beautiful
- Michael Wise - Pegmatites: Earth's Most Amazing Rocks
- Markus Raschke - The South Platte pegmatite district of Colorado: new insights into mineralogy, petrogenesis, and rare-earth element fractionation
- Myles Felch - Maine's spodumene-bearing pegmatites
- Peter Lyckberg - Chamber Pegmatites of Volyn, Ukraine
- Roy Bassoo - Trace elements in Texas topaz and their petrogenetic significance
- Calvin Mako (speaker) and Carson Richardson - Geochronology of REE-bearing Proterozoic pegmatites in the Arizona pegmatite belt

-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. 8) if you can provide any of these. -Editor

DONATIONS WELCOMED

It's that time of year! 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.



Host Steve Lindberg and President Bill Stephens start the Symposium at UP-J on Saturday morning. D. Glick photo

Geology365.com Introduces Presenter Database of Speakers for Mineral Club Meetings

Official Announcement from the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable, the President of FM-PA and the EFMLS:

An informal collaborative group of Pennsylvania club Presidents/EFMLS member organizations, the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable (PPR), initiated this fall by CRPRM President, EFMLS 2nd VP and Social Media Director Andrew “Dirtman” Eppig, at my suggestion participated in a presentation by New Jersey FM Chapter President and Geology365 creator Ryan Klockner covering the general features of Geology365, but most particularly of the Presenters database set up within Geology365. This feature, adapted from his mentoring program code last year, is the ideal platform to host presenters, their profiles and catalogue of presentations that will allow member organizations to search the database by topic, mineral species or group, location or speaker without pestering or exposing the presenters to random calls and such. The platform provides for a “handshake” process where those seeking a presentation for their organization can reach out to the presenter to request a specific presentation and the presenter can respond without divulging sensitive contact information until the actual engagement is agreed upon.

Presenters do not need to be club or EFMLS member organization members. As a matter of fact, members can be individuals of any club or just individuals interested in other aspects of Geology365, such as the collection management features, the free club website, events notification and such, and actual presenters with no club affiliation. Ryan built Geology365 for everyone interested in gems and minerals.

We can solicit those we know have given talks before and invite them to log into Geology365 to set up their profile and input their catalogue. Help me get the word out. Leverage your relationships. Ryan will assist as needed with your login and password. I plan to start with a host of presenters who have presented at our symposia or the Tucson Symposia in recent years. Not to name names, but I’m sure you would recognize many of them. Once they have logged in and have their profiles and catalogue input it’s easy to update as necessary and also easy for any clubs logged in to search the database and initiate the handshake.

Ryan and I discussed this last year at the Friends of Mineralogy National Annual Meeting and the code had

been completed middle of 2022, but unfortunately I had not seen an opportunity to promote it for a successful launch until last week when the PPR participants were on hand to hear Ryan’s presentation. It was so well received, as it should be, that we all decided to start utilizing it and populating the presenter’s database with our talks. I now have 13 of my presentations listed on Geology365’s presenter database. This initiative has the full support of FM National and several of our member clubs are now jumping onboard.

Perhaps the most important consideration, other than the code already exists and works fantastic, is that it’s completely free. Ryan has generously created and maintains Geology365 for the benefit of all clubs, US and abroad, in memory of his father who taught him to love mineral collecting. I plan to take advantage of the collection management software at some point. 😊

As President of FM-PA and the EFMLS, we at FM-PA will be adopting many features of Geology365 going forward, including the speaker database, as our organization has many gifted speakers with many presentations in the bag. As President of EFMLS, I am inviting all of our member clubs’ officers to check it out, try it out and see for yourselves. You do not have to use the website feature to use the presenter, events and other features, you just have to get set up with a username and password as President of your club and go from there. Ryan will be happy to assist but be respectful of his time as this is a labor of love and the tutorial will need to be scheduled in advance. He might actually have this recorded on the site so maybe all you need to get started is a username and password, and a handshake with the presenter!

I hope to have Ryan make his presentation to the next EFMLS Executive Board meeting and we’ll see how we might be able to provide a link to Geology365 from our website for you convenience.

Good luck and let us know what you think.

Take a few moments to review Geology365.com on the web, login and RSVP with your thoughts, questions and input. Set up and input your presenter profile & presentations!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens PG, President
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary
Societies, Inc.
Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter

**In Memory of
Joseph A. Dague, Jr.
(11/8/43 - 12/7/22)
by Ed Goebel**

reprinted with permission from
Philadelphia Mineralogical Society News
December 2023, Volume 130, Number 11

About one year ago today, we lost a giant in the Pennsylvania mineral community, Joseph A. Dague, Jr. Joe was a very passionate man, and one of his greatest passions was mineral collecting, especially within the boundaries of Pennsylvania. Joe would say to friends, “You know, I love everything about minerals: collecting them, trimming them, cleaning them, studying them, discussing them with others. . . I love how they look, how they feel.” Over the years, his expertise was called upon to assess and catalog the collections of private collectors (e.g., Bryon Brookmyer), prominent collections going to auction (e.g., Jay L. Lininger, Joseph Varady), and collections in colleges and universities (e.g., The University of Delaware). He was also called upon to curate mineral displays in private museums and educational institutions (e.g., Elizabethtown College). He gave mineralogical presentations to numerous clubs and organizations throughout the region. He collected, trimmed, and cleaned mineral specimens that he collected over several decades from all parts of Pennsylvania, and then he sold them to eager collectors at mineral shows, mostly in the central and southeastern regions of the state. He occasionally voiced frustration at what he perceived as a decline in the number of serious mineral collectors, but he never hesitated to offer his time and expertise to anyone who was sincerely interested. Although work took Joe as far east as Jenkintown, PA, and as far west as Austin, TX, he tended to gravitate back toward his roots in central Pennsylvania, spending much of his life in Clearfield, State College, and, most recently, near Chambersburg.

David Glick, President of the Nittany Mineralogical Society and Secretary/Newsletter Editor for Friends of Mineralogy – PA Chapter, shared that Joe and his wife, Jeanne (who passed away before him in 2014), lived in State College when the Nittany Mineralogical Society began in 1994. Joe was the club’s first Field Trip Chair. In addition to leading field trips, Joe provided mineral specimens for club use, for fundraising, and for meeting door prizes. Joe also

started the club’s longest-term project, Minerals Junior Education Day, which provides students in grades 1-8 with demonstrations, discussions, activities, and specimens to keep. Held every year except during the pandemic, it has served thousands of young students (and their parents); in fact, 2023 marked its 25th year – quite a Legacy Joe left behind!

Joe’s good friend Robert C. Smith, II shared that Joe began collecting minerals and fossils in the Clearfield, PA area where he grew up. The best mineral to collect there was wurtzite, found in some siderite nodules. Wurtzite became his life-long favorite mineral, which he collected at several sites throughout Pennsylvania. Bob and other friends would offer wurtzite specimens to Joe from all over the world. Some pagoda-like specimens in his collection were incredible! Minerals structurally related to wurtzite, such as greenockite and jordanite, were also some of his favorites. Joe had an impressive collection of self-collected Pennsylvania minerals and perhaps the best Pennsylvania thumbnail collection ever. He was excellent at visual mineral and locality identifications, but he enjoyed meeting Bob with flats of mineral specimens to play “stump the chump” (i.e., trying to confuse Bob with difficult identifications). Many friends enjoyed that Joe was a gifted storyteller whose sagas did well on “fact check”.

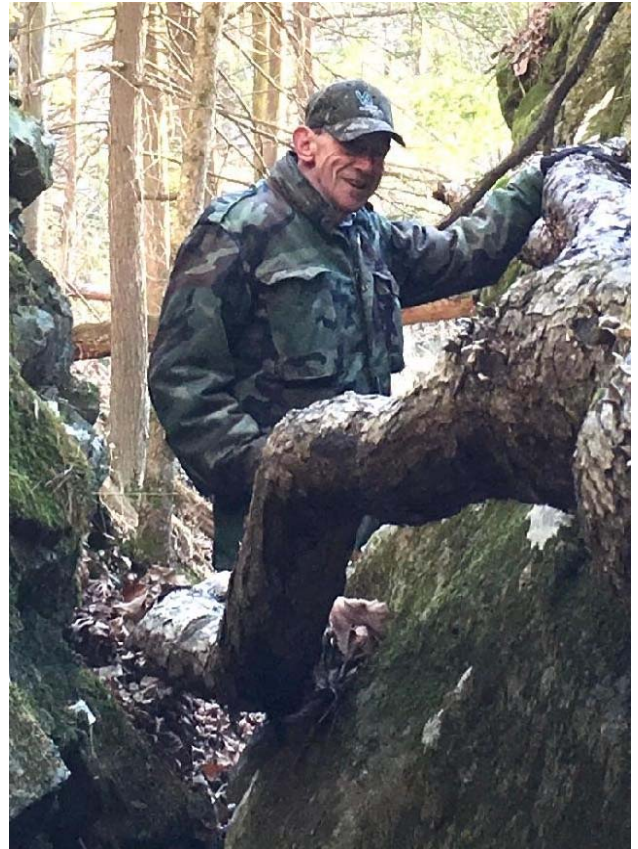


Joe Dague (left) with Bob Smith. Photo by Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D.
(Used with permission)

Bob Smith, Steve Carter, and other friends are quick to point out that Joe's first and foremost passion in his life was his wife, Jeanne. Minerals were a distant second, but, before she passed in 2014, Joe was most happy when collecting minerals with Jeanne. They spent countless days hiking, enjoying nature, and collecting together, and Jeanne also developed a good field eye for minerals. In fact, it was Jeanne who first discovered kimberlite at a new locality in Indiana Co., PA. She was his collecting buddy at many localities. One such place was near Schuyler, Virginia, where the two of them enjoyed iced tea on the porch of a local store after field collecting. Muddy and wearing tattered old field-collecting clothes, they were mistaken for being part of the local Walton clan, but they just smiled and posed for tourists asking to take their picture.

Jeanne's passing in 2014 hit Joe hard, but he greatly appreciated the phone calls and visits from his friends, who rallied around him. He enjoyed discussing minerals with his good friend Steve Carter and viewing Steve's extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection. Joe spent more field time collecting with his good friend Bryon Brookmyer and looked forward to hearing Bryon's weekly field reports when Joe couldn't go along. In appreciation for Bryon's friendship, Joe prepared and submitted the information that led to Bryon being chosen for the prestigious Carnegie Mineralogical Award at the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2014.

I first met Joe about 18 years ago at the mineral auction for the late Jay L. Lininger (Jay had an extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection that was prepared and cataloged by Joe and Jeanne). Amazed and overwhelmed, I felt like "a kid in a candy store" until Joe helped to calm me down and narrow my focus for bidding. In 2/2017 Joe led me on a one-day tour of historical and active mineral collecting sites throughout Adams Co., PA. His knowledge and enthusiasm about the history, mineralogy, and geology of every site we visited was truly astounding – one of my most memorable days ever! Over the years, I have enjoyed getting to know him as a mineral collector but even more so as a person. He has generously provided knowledge, inspiration, wonderful mineral specimens, but, most of all, friendship. He will be missed dearly by all of us fortunate enough to consider him our friend. I have the feeling that Joe and Jeanne are looking upon us now, smiling hand-in-hand, and collecting together once again.



Joe Dague collecting at an old copper mine in his beloved Adams County, PA. *Ed Goebel photo.*

Joe Dague in the FM-PA Chapter

by David Glick

At FM-PA's 2009 Symposium at Franklin & Marshall College, Joe gave a presentation on 'An Informal Mineralogy of South Mountain.' He squeezed an impressive amount of information into his time slot - so much that many in the audience gave up on trying to take notes. The biographical sketch he provided at that time said that he and Jeanne had been collecting minerals for 42 years, and that he had been a member of FM-PA for about 20 years.



Specimen (field of view 35mm) and its label, sold by Joe Dague. *D. Glick photo*

Annual Review and President's Message Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA)

Bill Stephens, PG, President



This year has been a very busy and successful year for FM-PA Chapter, last year's success notwithstanding. As I reported last year, our 2022 Symposium had a great turnout both at the symposium with 45 attendees and at the field trip to National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills with 20 attendees, including at least five of our seven Professional Geologists (PGs). We also joined the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), one of seven regional federations under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. EFMLS currently has 8257 adult and 957 junior members in 92 clubs, up from approximately 7000 members in 85 clubs last year. FM-PA, by unanimous vote of the Board, joined EFMLS at the end of October 2022 and now enjoys the benefits of the outreach offered through EFMLS, of which I am President again until 2024.

What a year for us! We began planning our 2023 Symposium very early this year and voted to accept the offer made by Steve Lindberg, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) "Geology" Department, to host us this year. The venue was UPJ's Living-Learning Center main hall, and lobby which included a showcase. UPJ is in western Pennsylvania, far from our comfort zone in the Delaware-Chester-Lancaster Counties area of southeastern Pennsylvania where we have traditionally held our Symposia for decades. We were aware that we would be leaving many of our lifelong and older members behind, but we anticipated acquiring new members and a broader audience with assistance from our UPJ partner, as well as having the ability to run an actual mineral show and utilize the display to show some champion Pennsylvania specimens. Our gamble was a huge success as noted below.

Preparation for the symposium was more involved than ever before. We required prior group rate hotel arrangements, show room and symposium room layouts as well as layout for the registration area in the lobby that had to be approved by the University. We coordinated with a relatively unknown collector to have the largest smithsonite ever found in Pennsylvania as well as many exceptional large calcites and other Pennsylvania minerals,

most featured in the Eureka supplement published by the Mineralogical Record, displayed in the trophy case in the main lobby of the facility. We also had to modify the registration forms to include options for meals, and made a completely new dealer registration form for online registration. We modified/updated our logo and purchased table covers for our registration and head tables. We reduced the symposium rates and opened the show to the public for free. Advertising was considerably more extensive than usual. I believe all of these planning measures were new to us and were facilitated by our host, UPJ.

The symposium included an informal gathering on Friday evening at the main hotel where about 20 gathered for fun and shared stories; then we toured UPJ geology facilities and went to the basement to pick out some free rocks. On Saturday, the symposium and show ran simultaneously in separate rooms. Our hybrid meeting was better attended than last year, and we had a lot of new faces including two student speakers. Several talks, including three student talks and my joint talk with Steve Lindberg, focused on the New Paris Quarry field trip venue, which is now an educational geologic and collecting site known for fluorite and abundant Upper Silurian-Lower Devonian marine fossils. The symposium flyer is included below.

For our Annual Meeting always held at our symposium, which lasted only a few minutes :), we re-elected incumbents Mike Dunton and Dave Glick and elected two new board members:

- Andrew "Dirtman" "Rockhound" Eppig, who is our social media guru. Andrew is President of the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club (CPRMC) and was recently elected 2nd VP and Social Media Director of the EFMLS, both of which are executive board voting positions. Andrew has been producing the "Dirtman Reports" which air on Jeri Jones' rock room bi-weekly. You can search on YouTube and watch back episodes at your convenience.
- Mark Sigouin, PG, an existing member and professional geologist who is also an accomplished musician.

Note that all officers on the slate were elected, and at the next board meeting conducted via Zoom the board voted to continue the current officers in office and approved the annual meeting minutes. I anticipate there will be some changes on the Board as Ron Sloto is looking to pass on the Treasurer's office and the website he manages for us, which might cause some other shuffling of positions.

Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN **FM-PA Annual Symposium and MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW**



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter **SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 11, 2023 - Field Trip Nov. 12**

Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

FIRST 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. 10: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 11: Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**

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

Seven talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** concentrating on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy & Geology** and more:
 Gypsum Occurrence in the Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, PA - by William Kochanov, PG
 Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky - by Dr. Andrew Sicree
 A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the Effect of Twinning - by Dr. Robert Altamura, PG
 Geology & Mineralogy of the New Paris Quarry with Emphasis on Structural and stratigraphic relationships as assessed using Modern Mapping Techniques - by Bill Stephens, PG, and Stephen R. Lindberg
 The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in SW PA - by C Howard, A Schreckengost, Dr. R Kerrigan
 Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian-Devonian inland sea...New Paris quarry...PA - by C. Coughenour & S. Lindberg
 Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems - by Aleya Schreckengost

Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Meet Fellow Collectors - Rock Giveaway by UP-J

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

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 12 New Paris Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants. Register now!

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

Some of the important statistics and activities at the 2023 symposium are:

- Total attendance in person and online was 66 this year versus 45 in 2022. The breakdown was 37 pre-registered online, 27 members, 10 nonmembers; 10 onsite registered, 5 members, 5 nonmembers; 14 students signed in at the registration desk; 5 non-member speakers.
- 8 new members including 2 students, versus 1 new member last year.
- 13 PGs attending and requesting certificates for 6 credits versus 7 PGs last year for 5 credits.
- Public attendance not counted (?) but over 50 not registered for the symposium based on visual estimates making the overall event attendance over 100.
- We made a substantial profit when we normally just break even.
- The entire meeting was successfully recorded this year with no material hiccups, using an Owl meeting device and hybrid Zoom setup.

I attribute the success of the event to a number of factors: effective assistance from our host Steve Lindberg and staff at the facility, the fantastic facility itself and partnering

with the "geology" department and Geology Club, effective advertising, reducing rates and opening the show to the public, having an actual show with dealers from outside the FM-PA membership. With respect to the increase in PGs, in addition to our formal advertising and my efforts, Kristen Hand of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey and organizer for the annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG) distributed our information to all the registrants of the FCPG 2023 conference after the conference was cancelled due to budgetary issues at the state level.

The field trip always follows the day after the symposium, and it was exceptionally well attended. There were at least 20 vehicles and we estimate, subject to confirmation, that attendance was not less than 40, double last year.

The field trip site was the New Paris Quarry, which has become a field study site for UPJ, and has been visited by FM-PA before as a multi-club field trip. Steve Lindberg leads trips to the quarry on a regular basis.

This limestone quarry, now inactive, has the Silurian-Devonian boundary exposed, abundant fossils, and two bentonite layers (possibly three). Some of the largest

fluorite specimens found in Pennsylvania came from that quarry, though the main vein is currently covered. It was one of the field trip stops of the 2002 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG), and the geology is detailed in the field trip guidebook/road log for that conference, available online. Our symposium brought new information to light on the geology, mineralogy and paleontology of this quarry including not yet published research by myself and UPJ Students and faculty. My work in advance included drone based high resolution mapping, spatially fixed structural observations (some of which correct published information) and plotting of calcite veins (some fluorite-bearing), and bentonite bed elevations. Students presented information/research on the conodonts that moves the Silurian-Devonian boundary upward in the LaVale member, fluorite origins, geochemistry of and possible identification of a new bentonite bed, while Steve provided the foundational description of the site.



Collecting during the FM-PA Symposium trip to New Paris Quarry.
Steve Lindberg photo.

The success of this year's symposium and our partnership with UPJ, so far from "home base", cannot be ignored, and we are giving serious consideration to doing it again next year. I and the Board would like to thank our host Steve Lindberg and the "Geology Department", Geology Club, students and the UPJ Living-Learning Center staff for all their help. I'd also like to thank Mike Davis for generously allowing us to display some of his great finds as featured in the Eureka Supplement to the Mineralogical Record, and Kirsten Hand of PAGS and organizer for the FCPG for getting the word out to PGs about our pre-approved CEUs for symposium attendance. It worked. And thanks to our

new and existing dealers who helped make the show a success and our hard working and effective Board of Directors, first for agreeing to this gamble, and all their hard work.

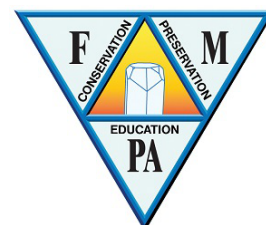
During the course of the year the FM-PA has issued its newsletter, maintained its membership and services to its members, and members have been conducting research. I am aware Ron Sloto is working on another county Mines and Minerals Book, continues to do research at West Chester University (WCU) and probably has something in the works on a new amethyst discovery brought in by a non-member.

I have been/am very active with the EFMLS as its President, guiding the development of automated functions on the EFMLS.org website with our vendor Madhouse Graphics; that includes a fully automated club directory which FM-PA is in, and other functions, as well as leading that organization to success. I have been doing some mapping projects that will come to light next year, and I'm working with Daryll Powell on a minimally technical book highlighting the discovery of extraordinary skeletal "Herkimers" by Lee Levesque earlier this year; it will be available at Tucson. I also helped Lee and the men of "Twoguysonhole", who had an extraordinary discovery of fluorite at the Blanchard Mine this year, get introduced to Peter Megaw and secure cases to display their finds at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show this year. I've had several speaking engagements this year, including our symposium, guest speaker at the EFMLS annual convention in Syracuse, and the Harrisburg Area Geological Society (HAGS); and Ryan Klockner and I are making progress with the speaker/presenter database in Geology 365 we set out to do two years ago (see page 3).

I hope to run a hybrid/ live streaming Zoom at the FM National Annual Symposium so that many who cannot afford or take time to attend in person can see the fantastic lineup of speakers Mark has pulled together for 2024, without burdening Mark with the dual duty of managing the "zoomers" and the in-person meeting. That includes PGs looking for credits.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the National Board meeting and symposium in Tucson. I will be in town 12 days this year.

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



WILDACRES WORKSHOPS

May 13-19, 2024

From EFMLS News

December 2023, Volume 70, Number 12

Wildacres is located in a beautiful and peaceful setting on top of a mountain. Its location makes it the perfect place to unwind while learning a new, refreshing an old, or updating a skill. New participants are welcomed with open arms as well as those returning. Lifetime friendships and even marriages have been forged due to participation in Wildacres. You may arrive as a stranger, but you go home with new friends. While at Wildacres, you are exposed to the beauty of the setting, with new ideas, expert teachers, and talks by a well-known speaker-in-residence.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 session at Wildacres May 13-19 for your first or another great experience on top of the mountain. Final plans are in the works and will be printed in the *EFMLS News* and updated on the website when finalized. In the meantime, you may want to plan ahead and reserve the dates on your calendar. To date, classes in Intarsia, Beading, and Wire Working have been confirmed. Other class offerings are in the process of being finalized.

The Speaker-in-Residence will be Mike Colella, who will be accompanied by his wife, Sue. Mike is a man of many talents and has been a professional photographer for decades, speaking on his photography and many hobbies:

- Sands of the World, discussing his collecting from around the world and will show some of the more exotic samples of his collection.



Photos from
<https://efmls.org/wildacres/wildacres-photo-gallery/>



- Suiseki, the ancient art of viewing stones, its history, collecting, and how he takes stones from collection to final display. Slides and live examples will be presented.
- Wood Art, how he creates it.
- Being a Professional Photographer, from photographing gems and minerals to wines of Europe and travels to Alaska.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Feb. 10, 2024: Tucson Mineral Symposium, by Friends of Mineralogy. Online viewing is planned. See page 2.

Mar. 2-3, 2024: 60th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Society. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202), Wilmington, DE 19803. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5.
www.DMSrocks.org , www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow

Mar. 8-9, 2024: Micromount Symposium by Leidy Microscopical Society. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, Richboro PA 18954. Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; <https://leidymicroscopical.com>

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. Information: www.phillyrocks.org.

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 29**.

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.

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/>

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Administrative Directory

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

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Treasurer	Ron Sloto
Secretary	David Glick
	Mike Dunton
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Members can find contact information in the Newsletter edition which they receive directly.

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