March 16th meeting:

**Preliminary characterization of residual deposits on Joseph Priestley’s laboratory apparatus**

by

Dr. Barry Scheetz

Penn State

Our March meeting will be held Wednesday the 16th in room 114 (larger auditorium) of Earth & Engineering Sciences Building on the west side of the Penn State campus in State College, PA. Maps are available on our web site.

6:45 to 7:45p.m.: Social hour, refreshments in the lobby
7:45 to 8:00 p.m.: announcements, questions, answers
about 8:00 p.m.: featured program

The event has free admission, free parking, and free refreshments, and is open to all; parents/guardians must provide supervision of minors. Bring your friends and share an interesting evening!

Joseph Priestley is best known as the discoverer of oxygen. But he was much more than that. He experimented with electricity in the 1760’s before Benjamin Franklin, a colleague and friend. He delineated the process of photosynthesis. He invented modern-day soda. He even invented the rubber eraser. In addition to all of these accomplishments, he was a theologian. One with such controversial ideas that his neighbors burned down his home in England and he was forced into exile in Pennsylvania, not more than 90 miles from here in Northumberland. Upon arrival in Pennsylvania, he continued his scientific activities up until his death in 1804. After his death, his family simply discarded his laboratory apparatus in the back yard of the family home, where it lay for nearly 200 years until the State Museum excavated the property in 1989. The question foremost in the mind of the State Archaeologist at the time, Steve Werfel, was ‘just exactly what were Priestley’s last experiments’ and could an examination of the remnants of the laboratory apparatus answer this question.

ATTENDING THE MARCH MEETING?

Donations of a few high quality, labeled door prize specimens are invited.

Your donated snacks and drinks will be welcomed. Bring a friend!

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Our annual event for kids:

**Minerals Junior Education Day - April 9**

Registration will start next week for time slots starting 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 9

**Spread the word!**

Our annual Minerals Junior Education Day is fun and rewarding for kids and parents who attend, as well as NMS volunteers who present the event. The event will be held at the same location as last year:

Central Pa. Institute of Science & Technology
540 North Harrison Rd
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

Students in grades 1-8 and their parents are invited to come and learn about minerals, crystals, gemstones, and fossils. At this event, kids get an empty egg carton when they check in, then go to a series of stations, each concerning a different aspect of mineral properties, rocks or fossils. They learn about the topic from a demonstration or discussion, and receive a properly labeled specimen or educational item related to the topic, so they gather a whole collection in their egg carton. $5 admission per child covers the costs. We’re planning the stations right now, and will include a sales table at kid-friendly prices. Stations may include: gem cutting & polishing (lapidary), gold panning, fluorescence with ultraviolet light, light and gems, meteorites, vertebrate fossils, invertebrate (shell) fossils, and others; stay tuned!

For updates, directions and maps, see www.nittanymineral.org

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**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS Monthly Meetings for Kids**

We are actively working on setting up monthly Junior Rockhounds meetings at 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons in State College this season. If we’re able to do this, they will start some time after April 9. Please watch our web site for announcements, or e-mail Dave Glick <xidg@verizon.net> to be put on an e-mail list to receive news directly.
NEWS FROM THE FEDERATIONS

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc., is a member of EFMLS, the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and therefore an affiliate of AFMS, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We present brief summaries here in order to encourage readers to see the entire newsletters.

The EFMLS Newsletter is available through the link on our web site www.nittanymineral.org, or remind Dave Glick to bring a printed copy to a meeting for you to see. The March issue starts with Cheryl Neary, Auction Chair, encouraging donations to the annual auction to raise money for the Eastern Foundation Fund. Monetary donations to the Fund are also welcome. President Larry Heath discusses moving our communications to the digital realm. The safety article (from AFMS) is on our hands and how to keep them safe.

The AFMS Newsletter is available by the same methods. The March issue opens with Endowment Fund news; tickets for the raffle are available at $5.00 a piece or $20.00 for five; the newsletter continues to show color photographs and descriptions for raffle items donated recently. The drawing will be held at the convention in Oregon in July. President Matt Charsky provides a list of answers to “What does the AFMS do?” - scholarships, convention, land access, juniors programs, bulletin and web site competitions, awards, an upcoming 70th anniversary celebration, and more. 2015 AFMS scholarship recipients are listed; those in Eastern Federation territory (chosen by honorary awardee Dr. Scott Hippensteel, UNC Charlotte) are Richard Eustace Aiken Small, MS student, studying foraminifera in water treatment, and Amanda Stone, PhD student, studying physical geology education. The safety article is on our hands and how to keep them safe. 2016 Program Competition is discussed. The AFMS Convention will be Thursday July 28, followed by the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society Show in Albany, Oregon, on the 29th - 31st. The Midwest Federation is having a poster contest for kids in grades 1-8 throughout the US on the theme “Amazing Agates”; entry details are provided.

Please see the web sites for the complete Newsletters. There’s a lot there! -Editor

STUDENTS! SATURDAY, APRIL 2!

EMEX - Earth and Mineral Sciences Exposition at Penn State
from the web site http://www.ems.psu.edu/emex

The Earth and Mineral Sciences EXposition (EMEX) is the College’s annual student-run Open House. All high school students, current Penn State students, and transfer students who are considering an EMS major are invited to attend. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are available to answer questions about EMS majors, curriculum requirements, career opportunities, student life, and special features of the College. We will also have College tours, demonstrations, and speakers. Please join us to learn how EMS can broaden your horizons and expand your opportunities for success in school, in your career, and in life. This Saturday event is FREE and open to the public.

The web site http://www.ems.psu.edu/emex includes contact information, an online registration form, flier, tentative schedule, map, and video. The event will be held Saturday, April 2, 2016, at The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Deike Building, University Park Campus, 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Geo-Sudoku
by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters DIGNRSTUY. One row or column includes what university recipients of AFMS scholarships are doing. As usual, if you’ve read this issue, you’ve seen the word. Each block of 9 squares, each row, and each column must contain each of the nine letters exactly once. The solution is on page 4.
NMS Meeting Door Prizes
We plan to have these specimens in our door prize drawings at upcoming meetings. Photographs by Robert Altamura.

Calcite crystal group, York Building Supply Quarry, York, Pennsylvania. Approximately 2.5” across.

Dolomite, fluorite, calcite, and quartz (Lemont “diamond”), Oak Hall Quarry, Oak Hall, PA. Approx. 3.5” across.

Wulfenite crystals on matrix, Chihuahua, Mexico. Approximately 3.75” across.

Spring Show Season!
Visit these shows presented by our neighboring clubs

**Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.**
47th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW
Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall
211 Herrick Avenue, Sayre, PA
March 19, 2016 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
March 20, 2016 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
website: chehannarocks.com
Special Exhibit & Silent Auction by Carnegie Museum
Exhibit by Paleontological Research Institute
Fossil ID by Bill Klose
Demonstrations of Cabochon Making
Geode Cutting and Faceting
Fluorescent Mineral Programs by UV-Bob
Saturday Programs at 11:00 – 1:00 – 3:00
Sunday Programs 12:00 & 2:00
Exhibits of Minerals, Gems, & Indian Artifacts
Dealers with Minerals, Gemstones, Fossils, Jewelry and Hobby Supplies  Mini-mine for Kids
Door Prizes  Food Available on Premises
Donation Requested:
Adults $3.00  *  Students $1.00  *  Under 8 Free

**FRANKLIN COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB**
38th Annual Gem- Mineral & Jewelry Show
Hamilton Heights Elementary School,
1589 Johnson Road, Chambersburg, PA
March 19 & 20, 2016:
About 17 dealers with over 50 tables.
Lots of variety!
Food concession  –  Faceting demos  - Spin Wheel
Micromounters showing their specimens.
PA Geological Survey display and handouts.

Classifieds
Ads may be submitted to the Editor (see p. 4)


-------- UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2016 --------
See the listing at  www.nittanymineral.org/beall.pdf
which has been updated to reflect the current list of specimens available. Those already sold since the 2014 listing have been removed, and some additional specimens and other items have been added. The Meiji binocular microscope set up for photomicrography with trinocular head, zoom, photo eyepieces, iris diaphragm to control depth of field, two-arm fiber optic illuminator with focusing ends, anti-vibration table, etc., is still available. Contact Frank & Gail Beall, 724-789-7290.
Some Upcoming Shows and Meetings

Our web site http://www.nittanymineral.org has links to more complete lists and details on mineral shows and meetings around the country. See www.mineralshows.com for more.


April 14-17, 2016: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY. http://www.rasny.org/lnsyrmp/


May 14, 2016: South Penn Spring Rock Swap & Sale, by CPRMC & Franklin Cty RMC. South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, PA 17307. General admissions $1.00/person.


June 4, 2016: Spring Mineralfest, Macungie, PA Sat. only, 8:30 - 3:00. http://www.mineralfest.com/

June 17-18, 2016: Lancaster Cty. Club Show, Quarryville, PA

Geo-Sudoku Solution

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T  Y  S  I  U  N  G  R  D
D  U  I  R  G  Y  S  T  N
G  N  R  T  S  D  Y  I  U
I  U  T  N  D  G  R  S  Y
R  S  G  Y  I  U  D  N  T
Y  D  N  S  T  R  I  U  G
S  T  U  D  I  Y  N  R
I  R  D  G  N  T  U  Y  S
N  G  Y  U  R  S  T  D  I
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Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

The Nittany Mineralogical Society prides itself on having among the finest line-up of speakers of any earth sciences club in the nation. Everyone is welcome at our meetings. If you’d like to be part of our Society, dues are $20 (regular member), $7 (student rate), $15 (seniors), $30 (family of two or more members, names listed). Those joining in March or later may request pro-rated dues. Your dues are used for programs and speakers, refreshments, educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. Please fill out a membership form (available at www.nittanymineral.org), make checks payable to “Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.” and send them in as directed, or bring your dues to the next meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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c/o S. Bingham, Treasurer
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Door Prizes: Dr. Bob Altamura (see above)
Facebook & Publicity: John Dziak: jjd264@psu.edu

The Bulletin Editor will welcome your submissions of articles, photos, drawings, cartoons, etc., on minerals, fossils, collecting, lapidary, and club activity topics of interest to the members. Please contact:

David Glick E-mail: xidg@verizon.net
209 Spring Lea Dr. phone: (814) 237-1094 (h)
State College, PA 16801-7226

Newsletter submissions are appreciated by the first Wednesday of the month. Photographs or graphics are encouraged, but please do not embed them in word processor files; send them as separate graphics files (TIF, or good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.