

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc., meeting in State College, Pennsylvania
Contact information on back page

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

February, 2019

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

February 20th meeting:

A Quarter-Century of Nittany Mineralogical Society

organized by
David Glick, NMS President

Our February meeting will be held Wednesday the 20th in room 116 (the smaller auditorium) 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 7:45 p.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!*

This is it, the twenty-fifth anniversary of our first meeting! I offer my congratulations and deep gratitude to those whose involvement and support have kept the Society such an active organization through those decades. I wasn't involved at the beginning, which makes me even more impressed with those who were. Our program will present a look back at our Society's beginning and its 25-year history; those who have their own stories and remembrances are invited to present them. We recently received materials from the estate of Charlotte Smith which include photographs of early NMS activities, and papers from the earlier Nittany Valley Mineral Club, so we will include some of those.

See the full illustrated story on pages 3-7.

Weather Cancellation Policy

In case we experience active winter weather on a meeting date, our policy is to cancel the meeting only if evening classes at Penn State have been cancelled. That cancellation is publicized in the usual radio and TV service announcements.



Penn State notes that weather-related cancellation / closing information can be found at WPSU-FM, the news site <<http://news.psu.edu/>>, and <<http://www.facebook.com/pennstate>>



- Editor

Weekly Meetings of Junior Rockhounds Start Monday, February 18

We are very pleased to announce that our **Junior Rockhounds** program of weekly meetings, for children in grades 3 through 8 and their parents, has returned. Please pass the word - tell your friends who have children. Meetings of this hands-on **Rocks, Fossils and Minerals** club will be held Mondays from 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. at Our lady of Victory Catholic Church Activities Center, Room 1 (lower level), 820 Westerly Parkway, State College PA 16801. The Spring 2019 schedule includes meetings on February 18 and 25, March 11, 18 and 25, and April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. No reservations are needed, just show up and enjoy messy science fun!

Please see page 2, or the flyer which is enclosed with this Bulletin, for more details and the list of meeting topics. It's also available on the web: <http://www.nittanymineral.org/Junior-Rockhounds-flyer-2-2019.pdf> Questions may be directed to Dr. Andrew Sicree by e-mail to aas132@psu.edu or (814) 867-6263.

Minerals Junior Education Day Saturday, March 30, 2019

NMS's 24th Annual Minerals Junior Education Day is set for Saturday, March 30, at Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science & Technology at Pleasant Gap, the same location as the last few years. Please save the date and volunteer to help with one of the stations at the event.

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, fossils, etc. 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. There is also a sales table with kid-friendly prices. **Registration for kids to attend will open in mid-March.** More news will be on the NMS web site.

We are **seeking volunteers** to help with various aspects of the event. We also welcome advance donations of identified minerals, tumble-polished material, fossils, books, etc. which can be sold at child-friendly prices. To volunteer or get more details, **please contact**

Frank J. Kowalczyk:

frank.j.kowalczyk@gmail.com

or 814-404-9854.

FEDERATION NEWS

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. The **Federations and our Society strongly encourage all members to read the monthly Federation Newsletters, available on their web sites**, which are linked from our web site, www.nittanymineral.org. We present brief summaries here in order to encourage readers to see the entire newsletters. There's a lot there!

The **EFMLS Newsletter** is now being distributed electronically; a link is available on our web site www.nittanymineral.org. In the January issue, we were reminded that registration for the spring (May 20-26) and fall (Sept. 2-8) EFMLS Wildacres workshops opened on January 1. Class descriptions and registration form are in that Newsletter. We are having trouble tracking down the February issue.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. The December-January issue was discussed in the December Bulletin and the February issue has not yet been received..

-Editor

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ACDEINOTU; one row or column spells the mission of NMS. As usual, if you've read this issue, you've seen it. Each block of 9 squares, each row, and each column must contain each of the nine letters exactly once. The solution is on page 8.

		T	E		O			D
O	A				N			U
					A			
N		A						T
T	D	O	A					I
	U	I				D		N
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Join the Junior Rockhounds: Rocks, Fossils, and Minerals Club!

Who: You! Best for 3rd through 8th graders and their parents.

What: Junior Rockhounds Science Club – Rocks and Minerals Programs.

Where: Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church Activities Center, Room 1 (lower level) (820 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801)

When: Mondays, 6:15- 7:00 p.m. No reservations needed!

Spring 2019 Schedule: February 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Cost: Free! (plus students get free mineral samples and a collection box)

Topics:

Feb 18: What is a mineral? (how to tell minerals from rocks, fossils, man-made stuff, etc.)

Feb 25: Chemistry of minerals (flame tests, acid reactions, cooking minerals, and more)

Mar 11: Crystals (how to measure them, how they grow)

Mar 18: Breaking minerals (using hammers and chisels to fracture and cleave minerals)

Mar 25: Glow-in-the-dark minerals (fluorescence under UV light)

Apr 1: Magnets and electricity and minerals (conductive and magnetic minerals)

Apr 8: Radioactive rocks, poisonous/dangerous minerals, and more

Apr 15: Volcanoes and volcanic rocks

Apr 22: Fossils and sedimentary rocks

Apr 29: Gemstones, and more!

Parents: Please accompany your student! All materials provided free of cost. Each student gets a free plastic collection box. At each session students get specimens to add to their personal collection. Hands-on, messy, fun! Science, learning, and family fun!

Collecting Field Trip/ Cave Trip (parents drive/open to all) – More info on time, date, will be announced later.

Sponsored by: Nittany Mineral. Society; Bosco Family Organization and Junior Museum.

Questions? Contact Dr. Andrew A. Sicree at aas132@psu.edu or **(814) 867-6263**.

ATTENDING THE FEBRUARY 20th MEETING?

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

Your donated snacks will be welcomed.

Bring a friend!

A Quarter-Century of Nittany Mineralogical Society

by David C. Glick



For many years, we met in the main gallery of Penn State's Mineral Museum. Here, Karen deHaas speaks on "Appraising Gems" in April 2000. *A. Sicree photo*

Founding

Our society was founded in 1994. Some of our members had been part of an earlier club in town with a lapidary emphasis, the Nittany Valley Mineral Club. Others had participated in gem and mineral clubs elsewhere and were looking for the same activities in State College. The Penn State Mineral Museum provided a nucleus, and a Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter symposium held here in 1993 brought some of the key players together. The society was founded in January 1994, and chose the third Wednesday of the month for its meeting night.

Monthly Meetings

The first regular meeting was held on February 16, 1994, in Steidle Building on Penn State's University Park campus in State College. The program was "How Do Diamonds Form?" by Professor of Geology Dr. David P. "Duff" Gold; Duff will revisit that topic for our February 2014 program. The second program was by another Penn State professor who's still a club member; Dr. Frank Aplan spoke on "Ghost Mines and Mining Camps of the Old West" illustrated with many slides from his extensive travels. Next, the April 1994 meeting featured Kurt Nassau, author of several books on color in gemstones, speaking on "Gems: Science, Synthesis, Beauty and Deception." These meetings set the pattern for presentations by our members, Penn State professors, and invited guests from the world of mineral collecting and mineral science. A complete list of programs through the years is available on our web site. Topics have included mineral collecting and mineralogy, gems, lapidary, geology, and history of the mineral industries, particularly in Pennsylvania.



A 1997 field trip to Gettysburg (Teeter) Quarry; left to right: Shirley Fonda, Jeanne Dague, Andrew Sicree, 2nd field trip chair Carl Rogers, 1st field trip chair Joe Dague, Mike Sheasley. *Photo courtesy of A. Sicree*

Field Trips

Field trips to collect minerals and fossils were one of the reasons for creating the society. The first field trip was held in April 1994, just two months after the first meeting. Field trip Chair Joe Dague took the club to Eastern Industries' Dale's Ridge Quarry west of Lewisburg. Oak Hall Quarry (now owned by Hanson Aggregates) near State College was a popular destination in the early years.



Likewise in recent years Dolomite on calcite, Oak Hall Quarry. *J. Passaneau photo*



At National Limestone's Middleburg Quarry in 2008, Tim Holtz and Field Trip Chair Ed Echler collect purple fluorite. *D. Glick photo*



the good specimens found at National Limestone's Mount Pleasant Mills location have made it popular, and the cooperation of owner Eric Stahl has made multiple visits possible.

Mineral Symposia

Among the major projects in the club's first decade were a series of seven (not counting the Friends of Mineralogy -PA Chapter symposium before NMS formed) symposia

Jeff Scovil speaks about mineral specimen photography at the 1996 Centennial Symposium. *A. Sicree photo*



An evening auction of donated mineral specimens was always a popular symposium event and a good fundraiser for the Society. Jeanne Dague (left) shows the specimen while Andrew Sicree (right) conducts the auction in 1999. *Photo courtesy of A. Sicree.*



Silent Auction at the 2002 Symposium held at Sterling Hill, NJ. *A. Sicree photo.*

for mineral collectors, generally featuring a full day of talks by experts, an auction, a banquet with keynote speaker, and a full day field trip. These attracted speakers and attendees from well outside the local area, providing many opportunities for learning more about the world of mineral collecting.

Official Status

We incorporated as a non-profit in Pennsylvania prior to our first Nittany Gem and Mineral Show in 2006, and in early 2008 we received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, retroactive to our incorporation in 2006.

Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows

We held a series of four Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows, which included dealers, children's activities, a speaker program, field trips, and more. We have not held the show since 2009 because of the cost and difficulty in scheduling local venues.



2006 Show at Mt. Nittany Middle School. *R. Altamura photo*



In the educational & outreach area of the 2008 show, Bob Altamura demonstrates gem polishing. *A. Sicree photo*

Minerals Junior Education Day

Our longest-term project, other than monthly meetings, has been our annual Minerals Junior Education Day for children and their parents. Children go to about eight different stations, each with a different topic on minerals, gems, fossils, or earth science. Each station includes a demonstration, display or activity and a discussion with trained personnel, and each provides a labeled specimen related to the topic. Students

receive an empty egg carton when they enter, and then build a collection of specimens in the egg carton as they visit the various stations.



At the 2000 Minerals Junior Education Day, Shirley Fonda explains invertebrate fossils to kids and parents. *D. Glick photo*



Mike Sheasley presenting "Taste and Smell" station at the 2000 Junior Ed. Day. *A. Sicree photo*

Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day

For several years, NMS participated in Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day (with variations in the name), a family-oriented event which brings together local outdoors groups to raise awareness and teach the public.



In 2007, Daniel Bontempo showed a variety of lapidary techniques to the kids. *A. Sicree photo*



Above: At the 2011 Spring Creek Day, Bob Altamura and John Passaneau discussed "Minerals versus Rocks" and Steve Poterala demonstrated gemstone faceting. Below: 2009, Iron Ore Minerals and Ironmaking. *D. Glick photos*



GPAA's gold panning is always a huge attraction at Minerals Junior Education Day. *D. Glick photo, 2007*



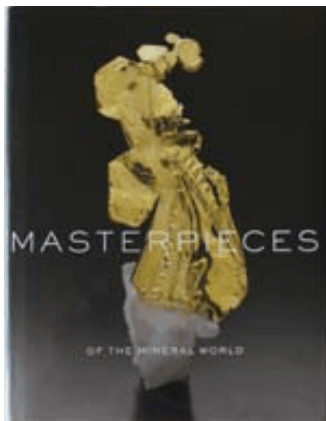
Display Cases at EMS Museum

Another outreach effort organized by Bob Altamura has been a display case set up by NMS at Penn State’s Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum on the ground floor of Deike Building. Displays are changed once or twice a year: more photographs are available on our web site under “Outreach.”

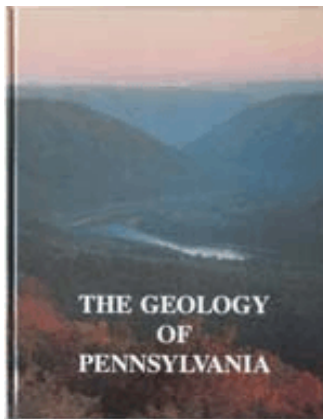
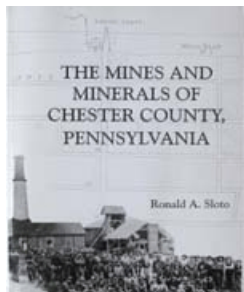


2007 display of the State College Oolite was shown at the Gem & Mineral Show and later at the EMS Museum.

Book Donations



NMS has undertaken a program to donate books in our field to local public and school libraries.



T-shirts

We have NMS T-shirts in several colors and sizes, printed both front and back with designs created by Bob Altamura. See the web site for more information.



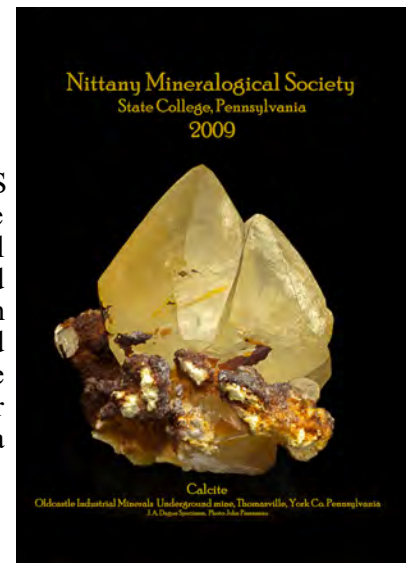
Mineral crystal sets



We have been selling sets of 18 colorful mineral specimens, most of which show crystal faces, a step above many sets available in tourist shops and elsewhere on the market. Many are popular gem minerals, and all have their source localities noted. A 28-page booklet by John S. White, former curator-in-charge of the Smithsonian's famous mineral and gem collection, is included. John White had assembled the specimens and written drafts of the booklet; NMS purchased the entire stock and completed the assembly of the project. The specimens are not labeled, but have painted color-coded dots; the descriptions in the booklet can be used to identify the specimens, then those identifications can be checked against the answers key sealed inside the booklet's back cover.

Posters

From 2008 to 2012, John Passaneau created an annual mineral poster for NMS to sell. They are produced using digital photo stacking and printer optimization techniques to yield exceptional results. See the web site under “merchandise” for a showcase.



In the Last Five Years

Most of this article has been reprinted from the 20th anniversary in 2014, and most of the projects discussed are still active. Frank Kowalczyk has been expanding Minerals Junior Education Day for the last couple of years. Dale Kephart has taken on the Field Trip Chair position.

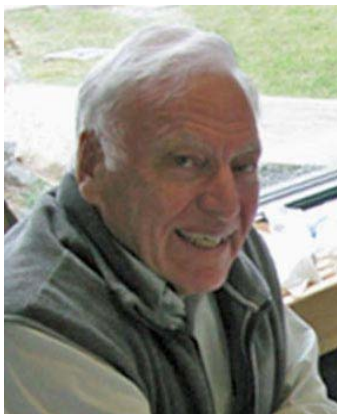
John Dziak is increasing the coverage of our publicity. Following are some topics and projects which were not covered in the 2014 article.

Life Members

We have honored two of our members who were instrumental in founding and supporting our Society by naming them Life Members. Dr. Andrew Sicree was honored in 2006, and Dr. D.P. "Duff" Gold in 2018.



Dr. Andrew Sicree, 2006



Dr. Duff Gold, 2009

Donations

As a nonprofit organization, NMS welcomes donations which can be used toward our goals of educating and promoting interest in minerals and the earth sciences. Our late member John Passaneau provided a generous cash bequest, as well as donating his micromount collection and microscopes, and some other specimens. NMS also purchased his library of mineral books from his estate. In the past year, the estate of Charlotte Smith donated her library, which emphasizes collecting localities, complementing the more technical library from John Passaneau. In the future, these materials should be available to members by appointment.

Barbara and the late Michael Sincak have provided extensive support for our Minerals Junior Education Days by donating significant quantities of specimens through the years. Avid Pennsylvania collector John 'Pen' Ambler donated a large quantity of a variety of specimens which we have been using as door prizes and for Minerals Junior Education Day. 'Skip' Colflesh and his collecting group donated a large number of Pennsylvania specimens which we are still using and distributing. Many other members and friends have donated funds or materials as well, and the Society is very grateful for all of them.

Junior Rockhounds Meetings

Another excellent program from the past, now being restarted in 2019, is our Junior Rockhounds club. It provides free meetings for children and their parents. Kids get to do hands-on learning activities with real minerals, receive identified specimens to take home, and are given a free plastic divided storage box to keep them in. Andrew Sicree has been the organizer for most of these programs, and is once again this year.



Bob Altamura leads the Junior Rockhounds in a gem-cutting demonstration in 2011. *A. Sicree photo.*

Thank You

This seems like a good time and place to express the Society's thanks to all those members and other volunteers who make the Society's activities possible. Our officers and other Board of Directors members do a lot of work! However, they can't do it all, and we are very grateful to those who present programs, volunteer at events, and help in many other ways.



And more...

Your editor has run out of room to list our activities and interesting aspects of our history... if your favorite has been left out, please come to the February 20th meeting and tell everyone about it!

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.mineralevents.com for more.

March 2-3, 2019: Earth Science, Gem and Mineral Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Society. New Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pike (Rt 202), Wilmington DE 19803. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5. Information and coupons at <http://www.delminsociety.net>

March 8-9, 2019: Micromount Symposium by Leidy Microscopical Society, Richboro, PA. Reservations \$20: contact donmcalarnen@outlook.com

March 23-24, 2019: Gems-Minerals & Jewelry Show by Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Hamilton Heights Elementary School, 1589 Johnson Rd., Chambersburg PA 17202. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4

March 23-24, 2019: 50th Annual Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd; Wysox, PA 18854. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

March 23-24, 2019: AFMS and Midwest Federation Convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

March 30-31, 2019: Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting PA 19462. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.phillyrocks.org/mineral-show/>

March 30-31, 2019: North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, by North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St., Midland Park NJ. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.nojms.webs.com> -4

April 13-14, 2019: Lehigh Valley Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Hellertown PA

April 27, 2019: Super Digg., Franklin New Jersey

April 27-28, 2019: Monongahela Rockhounds Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, West Mifflin / Pittsburgh PA.

June 1-2, 2019: EFMLS Convention and Orange County Mineral Club Show, Monroe, New York. (EFMLS meeting Friday evening May 31)

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.

We want to welcome you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

mailing address:

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Geo-Sudoku Solution

U	N	T	E	C	O	A	I	D
O	A	E	D	I	N	T	U	C
D	I	C	U	T	A	N	E	O
N	E	A	C	D	I	U	O	T
T	D	O	A	N	U	E	C	I
C	U	I	T	O	E	D	A	N
E	O	N	I	A	D	C	T	U
A	T	D	O	U	C	I	N	E
I	C	U	N	E	T	O	D	A

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.