September 20th meeting:
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

Life in the Cambrian: What controlled diversity in earth's earliest complex ecosystems?

by Kayla Irizarry¹, Mark Patzkowsky¹, Kimberly Lau ¹

¹ Department of Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA

Our September meeting will be held Wednesday the 20th in Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 East Pine St., Boalsburg, PA 16827. Maps can be found on our web site.

7:15 to 7:45 p.m.: Social “hour.” We will serve some refreshments - snacks and beverages - or feel free to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

7:45 to 8:00 p.m.: Announcements, door prizes, sales

About 8:00 p.m.: featured program

The event has free admission and free parking (lot just east of Fire Hall along East Pine St.), and is open to all; parents/guardians must provide supervision of minors. Bring your friends and share an interesting evening.

There will be no Zoom or recording this time, so join us in person in real time. -Editor

The Cambrian explosion was a profound diversification event which took place in the earliest half of the Cambrian; during this event most of the major groups of animals known from the modern and fossil record first evolved. Later in the Cambrian there was an unexplained “diversity plateau”, during which time diversity remained stagnant. Recent studies suggest that Cambrian oceans, particularly in deep water settings, maintained low oxygen conditions. Expansion of low oxygen conditions into shallow waters has been suggested as a trigger or contributing factor to the diversity plateau observed at the end of the Cambrian. In this talk, I will discuss the variety of life and environments of the Cambrian world and discuss whether oxygen played a key role in the early evolution of marine life.

ATTENDING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING?
Donations of one or two high quality, labeled door prize specimens are invited.
Larger quantities can go in a giveaway box.
Bring a friend!

DUES Time Once Again
David Glick, NMS Membership Chair

Our new membership year starts on November 1. The Board of Directors, after extensive discussion, made the difficult decision to raise dues for the first time since 2000. It was noted that in terms of costs of things in general, we’re in a different world now than 23 years ago. We’re also paying for a meeting place, rather than meeting at Penn State for free (we could probably meet at Penn State again, but most attendees would need to pay $1/hour for parking - that would add up!).

The new annual dues are: $25 regular membership; $18 seniors 65 years+; family $35; students $10. For NMS members, a dues form is included with this issue, either on paper or electronically. The form is <http://www.nittanymineral.org/mem.htm>, also available on our web site. We will be working on updating the menu for paying via PayPal. If you bring your dues and form to the September meeting, or send them in during September, we won’t need to send another form to you in October. Your dues are used for programs and speakers, meeting hall rental, refreshments, educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. We look forward to your continuing membership!

On page 2:

- Choose December Meeting date
- Official Notice: Annual Meeting and Elections in October
- Lapidary Equipment Available
**Choose December meeting date**

We plan to have a December holiday dinner as usual, with some space for sales by members; NMS would pay for a round of appetizers and attendees pay for their individual meals. Possible dates are Wednesday December 13 (the middle of Penn State finals week) and Wed. Dec. 20 (quite close to Christmas). If you have a preference, please email Dave Glick (p. 8).

**OFFICIAL NOTICE: Annual Meeting and Elections in October**

by David Glick, NMS President

The October 18th meeting, to be held at Boal Hall in Boalsburg, will be the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Business will include election of officers. In accordance with our bylaws (available on the web site), the Board of Directors, acting as the Nominating Committee, met and nominated the following slate of officers:

- President        David Glick
- Vice President    Bob Altamura
- Treasurer         Stuart Bingham
- Secretary         Barry Scheetz

The Board truly needs additional volunteers to get involved with running the Society, providing new energy and fresh thinking and some new names on the ballot. In many cases it would be useful to have newcomers spend some time on committees and attending Board meetings before stepping into elected office. All members: please consider volunteering!

**September Meeting Door Prizes**

A geode half and a striped nodule / geode, localities unknown, both nicely polished.

**Dr. Charles Miller wins Bulletin Article Award**

In the past year’s Bulletin Editor Advisory Committee contest, NMS’s Dr. Charles Miller won third place in the Eastern Federation’s Adult-Advanced category. The article was “The 1975 Volcanics Cross-Country Geology Field Trip” which appeared in the October 2022 issue of this Bulletin. Congratulations, Charlie!

**Field Trip: Slag and Chert**

Specimens collected on the recent trip: top left, blue iron furnace slag with swirled pattern, 3.2 cm / 1.2 in.; top right, chert with agate-like banding left of center; bottom, chert with various colors and patterns, larger piece 9 cm / 3.7 in. Collected by & photo by D. Glick.

On August 24, members of Nittany Mineralogical Society and the Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club got together for a collecting trip in Huntingdon County, PA. The first stop was in farm fields and along an old road, for iron furnace slag, and for chert with interesting colors and patterns, shown above. The second stop was for black chert nodules with concentric banding; some even had crystals in the center. Pieces from both locations should polish up nicely. Thanks go to Jim Garthe and Dale Kephart for arranging the trip. -Editor

**Lapidary Equipment Available**

NMS member Jim Van Fleet is buying a mineral collection in Syracuse NY. It includes lapidary equipment (saw, flat lap, buffing machine, 4-wheel cabochon machine - photos at http://www.nittanymineral.org/Lap-Sept.jpg) which will be for sale, or trade, including exchange for the use of a truck to bring the collection and equipment back to central PA. Contact Jim now: 570-412-2978 or email javanfleet8@gmail.com
NMS Picnic August 26
By David Glick

We had our summer picnic poolside at VP Bob Altamura’s house on Saturday August 26th. It was a beautiful day and a great setting to relax with friends and show them a few recent finds. Bob and NMS provided hamburgers and hotdogs cooked on the grill, and members brought an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Thanks, Bob, for your efforts and the hospitality!

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. We encourage our readers to read their monthly newsletters. The AFMS News is linked from our web site, <http://www.nittanymineral.org>, found at <http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm>. The Eastern Federation now has its Newsletters on its web site <https://efmls.org/news/current-newsletter/> (use Chrome if Firefox does not work). Back issues are also available; for the password, look on the web site or contact David Glick (see back page).

In the AFMS September Newsletter, President Cheryl Neary discusses the recent convention in Billings, MT. Roger Burford was elected the next President. The Endowment Fund auction raised nearly $4,000.00. There’s news from the Juniors Committee on its “Crack the News” newsletter and more, and from the Public Relations Committee, including an arrangement with Rock and Gem Magazine with discounts for subscribers and a cash refund to AFMS; watch for a form on the AFMS website, or use the promo code P73RNG01 when ordering. The PR Committee also expects to hold a Zoom conference on “Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media.” Rockhound of the Year recipients are introduced. The safety article covers a pet first aid kit, if your furry friend goes collecting with you. There’s much more - this is a good issue to check out.

The Eastern Federation’s September Newsletter has extensive reports on the July convention in Syracuse, New York, including the Annual Meeting and other activities (see p. 4-6). Bulletin Contest results are announced; see page 2 for our local winner. -Editor

NMS BOARD MEETING NOTICE

NMS members are invited to attend Board of Directors meetings, which are generally held at 7:30 p.m., early in the month or as decided by the Board, although we do not meet every month. The next date has not been decided. Members who would like to attend should contact president David Glick to verify time and place; those who would like to have their discussion item placed on the agenda should contact him at least one week in advance of the meeting.
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 weekend I believe) discovered several (2 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 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 with assistance from Andrew, this year as your President. 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 accept the offer 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 Mallows 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
Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club
Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show!
Saturday, Sept 23, 2023  10 - 6
Sunday, Sept 24, 2023   10 - 4
at the Harrisburg Consistory
2701 N. 3rd Street
(Uptown Harrisburg, next to Zembo)
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Free off-street parking!
rockandmineral.org/annual-show
We can’t wait to see you there!

Geo-Sudoku
by David Glick
The puzzle below contains the letters AEILNORST. One row or column spells the activity of spreading the word to the public. 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.

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Rockin’ in the Alleghenies
FM-PA Annual Symposium & MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW
JOHNSTON, PA - November 11, 2023

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

FIRST ANNUAL MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW
SHOW SATURDAY 9:00 - 6:00  ADMISSION FREE TO ALL
40 TABLES OF SELECTED VENDORS

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts. Nonmembers $15; students free.
Friday evening Nov. 10: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.
Saturday Nov. 11: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown
Five talks by knowledgeable SPEAKERS concentrating on Pennsylvania Mineralogy & Geology
Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation - Discounted admission for FM-PA members
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
UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.
https://efmls.org/events/
See other show calendar links on our web site.


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 page 7 and https://www.mineralfest.com/


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/

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 7 and https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/

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 $25 (regular member), $10 (student rate), $18 (seniors), $35 (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
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c/o S. Bingham, Treasurer
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Penna. Furnace PA 16865

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Door Prizes: Dr. Bob Altamura (see above)
Facebook: John Dziak: dziakj1@gmail.com
Publicity:

Visit us at   www.nittanymineral.org

Geo-Sudoku Solution

O A L S I R N T E
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Upcoming Meetings

October 18: Field Excursions, by Dr. Charles E. Miller, Jr.

November 15: Applying Non-traditional stable isotopes to traditional Geological Problems, by Adam Ianno, Pennsylvania Geologic Survey

December: Holiday Dinner (see page 2)