

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

August, 2024

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

August 21st meeting:
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

Show and Tell by NMS members and visitors

Our August meeting will be held Wednesday the 21st in Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 East Pine St., Boalsburg, PA 16827. Maps can be found on our web site.

7:00 to 7:45 p.m.: Social "hour," refreshments

*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.*

We plan to record the presentations (with permission of the individual presenters) for later posting to our web site.

The program topic for August will be **Show and Tell**, presented by anyone and everyone who would like to "show and tell" for up to 5 to 10 minutes or so. This is a great chance to bring in new specimens, lapidary work, books, photos, equipment, projects in progress, interesting contrasts and comparisons, **anything you like** which represents some area of interest in our hobby or science, and share it with others. You can speak about it as informally or formally as you'd like. Stories or questions on their own are fine, too. You can connect with other members who have similar interests, or awaken an interest or spark an idea in someone else. We've had many fun and interesting presentations in the past, and look forward to more this time around. *-Editor*

ATTENDING THE AUGUST 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!

Field Trip August 17

For current NMS members: Saturday August 17, 9:00 a.m. to noon (rain or shine), near Pennsylvania Furnace, PA (12 miles SW of State College), for black/white/colored jasper, and blue/green iron furnace slag. See email of August 7 from David Glick. *-Editor*

NMS Social Dinner August 19

from C Miller & D Glick

Charlie Miller has set up another NMS social dinner at Quaker Steak & Lube Restaurant (501 Benner Pike, in the shopping center behind Nittany Mall) in State College for Monday, August 19 at 5:30 p.m. As with previous dinners, we would order from the menu and pay individually, with time for conversation and socializing. Spouses and guests are invited and would be welcomed! No need to reply, just come and enjoy on the 19th! Tell the host/hostess that you're with the group in the Corvette Room (it's all the way at the back).

NMS Picnic August 24

from Bob Altamura

We are planning a poolside NMS picnic at my house near Lemont on **Saturday August 24th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** and would like it if you would come. I will have chips and snacks, spring water and drinks including beer and wine (bring your own favorite if you like). Hamburgers and hotdogs cooked on the grill will be provided. Feel free to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share, and enjoy the pool if you wish! For those who want to stay later, we can manufacture an after-party.

Come chat with some club friends you may not have seen in a while! Feel free to bring a swimsuit and towel (water temp has been steady in the high 70s -very nice) and any special food. Also feel free to bring a guest.

My address is **1601 Yardal Road**, State College 16801; cell phone is 814-880-6762. There is plenty of parking along the street; in my driveway - or at my neighbor, Jonathan Mathews' house, just two doors down at 1519 Yardal.

If you turn off East Branch Road onto Norle Street, then take the second right onto Yardal, it's the second driveway on the right (blue mailbox), and more parking at Jonathan's is the fourth driveway on the right.

Please let us know that you expect to come by emailing [<raltamura@comcast.net>](mailto:raltamura@comcast.net) or by calling my cell, 814 880-6762. That's just to give us a rough count, it's not a commitment. Everyone is welcome to come on the 24th! **Rain date** is the same time on the 25th. ✨

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters ACEFNPRSU. One row or column includes where all that slag comes from. 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.

	C	S						R
			N					P
	N	P	S			A		C
R					N		A	S
				S	F		E	
	S		A		R			F
			R				C	
C		F				S	N	
S	P		C					E

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, which are linked from our web site, <<http://www.nittanymineral.org>>.

The **Eastern Federation's** June Newsletter had information for the June 8 Convention in New Jersey, and an entertaining article of Herkimer diamonds, reprinted on pages 4-5 of this Bulletin. "Keeping Kids Connected to Safety" is on page 3.

The **AFMS** June Newsletter reports President Roger Burford's wife Liz is undergoing lung cancer treatment; we wish them the best, and a successful outcome. American Lands Access Association reports on the expansion of National Monuments in California and Nevada which threatens access to collecting localities. Historian Jennifer Haley is collecting articles on how rockhounds aided the war effort during WWII, as well as cartoons and poems from rockhounds in old club bulletins (see below and page 7). Bulletin Editors Contest winners are announced. An article on Maclurites Ordovician fossil snails is reproduced from the Southeastern Federation newsletter.

-Editor

Blast from the Past - Acrostic Poetry

reprinted from A.F.M.S. Newsletter Vol 77 no 5 June 2024



Photo by Steve Kaminski (RMFMS AZ/NV State Director) was included in one of his letters to BLM during the Mojave Trails National Monument comment period. The letter was 10 words long: "Dear BLM, this is not mining. Sincerely, Steve Kaminski, R.G. and Dad," <scsckamin@gmail.com> -Used with permission

Collector

Compulsively driven to find more
 Obstinate seeking come rain or shine
 Leaving no rock unturned
 Looking at every outcrop
 Eagerly anticipating the next road-cut
 Culling the mundane from the extraordinary
 Tantalized by every quarry
 Oblivious to all else
 Rabid for rocks

by Rosie Miller, The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society From: *The Strata Data*, 2/08 (5th Place - AFMS Adult Poetry)

Safety:**Being Safe,
Staying Safe**

Ellery Borow,
AFMS Safety Chair
from AFMS Newsletter
v.77 no.5, June 2024



Kids are different from adults. To young kids everything is new, exciting, curious, to be explored, tasted, touched, tried. With luck, they will keep those traits and be well served by them as they mature. One of the things kids do not have in abundance is patience. How might a kid wait around while there is a huge world out there to explore?

When it comes to safety, there are several issues which relate specifically to kids. Kids are generally not ones to listen attentively to a long boring safety lecture either at a club meeting or at a mine or quarry collecting site. So, how are kids to be safe if the safety lectures are not effective in reaching them? Parents do their very best to keep their kids safe, but it is difficult to watch them every second of every hour.

One of the ways kids learn on their headlong race to adulthood is to watch the world around them. They watch other kids, they watch strangers, they watch their parents, they watch everything, every one, all the time. Now, if what kids see are other kids, strangers, their parents and everyone wearing their safety goggles, wearing safety gloves, not tossing rocks down-hill toward other collectors, and in general being safe and respectful, kids will take note of this. Kids need to learn, want to learn, struggle and strive to learn to be the adults they are destined to become. To help them on toward their goal, we, we all need to set examples of how to be safe.

Here is an example to which many can relate – before taking off, the airline cabin crew gives a brief safety lecture. In the lecture mention is made that, in case of loss of cabin pressure passengers are to put the oxygen masks on themselves first, before putting the masks on their kids. In order to protect our kids why aren't we told to put the masks on the kids first? The answer is, if kids see their parents putting their masks first, then kids will know it is safe and necessary for them as well to put on a mask. Kids learn from the real-world examples displayed by all the adults around them.

Don't have kids of your own, or your kids all grown up and moved away? Kids will still look at you as an adult and a role model of what to do to be an adult. As adults, aware of this or not, kids are watching

everything we do. We need to be setting the best of examples of what it means to be an adult. And, one of the examples we need to be setting is with the need to be safe. If we keep ourselves safe, kids will see this and respond with modeling our behavior, it is what they do.

All that said, kids travel their own path to adulthood. They sometimes need to break things to see what happens. They need to test limits. They need to be curious. They need to make mistakes to learn. So, parents still need to maintain vigilance with keeping everyone safe. We all need to be watchful and help kids learn the correct ways to be safe. We can do this. After all, everyone's, that's kids and adults alike, safety matters.

**Jim Stauffer
1932-2024**

James D. Stauffer, a leader in the Pennsylvania Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy for decades, and member of many other clubs in Pennsylvania, passed away in Lancaster County on March 3. An obituary at <https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com/obituary/james-d-stauffer/> describes his many professions: paratrooper, Army photographer, geologist, encyclopedia salesman, insurance salesman, physics and earth science teacher, middle school guidance counselor, emergency medical technician, administrator in adult education and ESL for Lancaster County Prison. Through most of his life he was an avid collector, assembling an impressive collection. It will be sold at auction on Saturday October 12 by Boltz Auction Company in Lancaster <https://www.boltzauctions.com/>.

**Bob Jones
1926 - 2024**

Robert William "Bob" Jones, prolific author of popular writing on mineral collecting, passed away in May at the age of 97. Tucson Gem & Mineral Society (see link below) writes, "The mineral community has suffered a great loss with the passing of noted author and lecturer Bob Jones at the age of 97. He was active in the mineral community for over 65 years and was perhaps its greatest ambassador, inspiring hundreds, if not thousands, to start collecting minerals." He wrote for Rocks & Minerals magazine from 1960 to 1973; most knew him from his articles in Rock and Gem magazine from 1971 to 2024.

For an extensive obituary, go to <https://www.tgms.org/news-archive/2024/7/23/in-memoriam-for-robert-w-bob-jones> and then click the "For the complete obituary" link.

Lee Levesque's Record Setting

HercuLees & Medusa

by Andrew "Dirtman" Rockhound

from EFMLS News v 71, no 6, June 2024

Saturday, May 28, 2023 @ 5:30 a.m. Lee Levesque III laces his boots, the words "I'm gonna blow the lid off this place..." echoing in his head. He makes his way into the mine (quarry), confidently stepping out of his truck with a decade of "Herkimer Diamond Mining District" experience, knowing today, he'd throw it all at Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining in Sprakers, New York. After seeing videos of massive Mohawk Monsters (Large Double-Terminated Quartz Crystals) being pulled at this premier site for nearly two years, Lee lugs his heavy steel arsenal up the steep slope to a bench on the ledge, and begins his assault.

Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining (MVMM) uniquely lies on an almost vertical outcrop of the Little Falls Dolostone Formation overlooking the Mohawk River, allowing access to the largest and most varied types of quartz crystals out of any mine in the district. Not even a year prior, on July 4, 2022, the largest double terminated single crystal specimen ever found was pulled from the dirt under a large stump, only feet from Lee's spring steel as he cracks open his first pocket of one to two inch "water-clear" double terminated quartz crystals. Referred to as "Herkimer Diamonds" throughout the world, at this mine, we call them Mohawk Diamonds for a reason. "I've mined where Herkimers are supposed to be the best, but no, these are the best diamonds I've ever mined, Mohawk Diamonds" Lee states. He briefly inspects the perfect crystals now sparkling in the daylight for the first time since they formed. He tosses them in a bucket, picks up his steel and removes the next layer of rock, opening yet another pocket of water-clears.

The water was not clear however, millions of years ago in the Late Cambrian as a hyper-saline shallow sea slowly closed, allowing carbonate deposition. This deposition eventually becomes the Little Falls Dolostone, along with the Cryptozoons (Stromatolites) formed by the bacteria living along the coast of that sea, and the associated minerals that we now find today in the pockets at MVMM. Those minerals, or lack thereof, create different environments for many types of crystal growth. From empty or collapsed pockets to fully-filled, drusy quartz lined walls, with the crystals themselves ranging in size and appearance, from water-clear to

smoky to milky. Every pocket is different in what they contain, just like the technique each miner uses, and the other miners are starting to take notice of the amount of material Lee is moving. A small crowd grows as Lee demonstrates the efficiency of his Trow & Holden 4lb pointed-hammer with the bench he started his assault on, now quickly becoming a pile of broken rock behind him. Millions of years, layered like wrinkles on the vertical dolostone face, now soak in salt water once again, this time falling from Lee's brow, as his chisel disappears straight into a seam. The words return echoing in his head....

"I'm going to blow the lid off this place"

Lee carefully removes the final piece to a basketball sized opening, and pulls out a palm sized point with a skeletal (fenster) formation on one face in the shape of an "A". He then removes the closest mass from the pocket floor. The crowd now stares in awe at the birth of only half of the large skeletal cluster. He goes back in, removing the larger half, the "face" of HerkuLees, to a now roar of cheers from the crowd. Altogether, the largest skeletal "Herkimer" Quartz cluster ever found. At 27.8lbs and with all pieces keying together, it grew from the ceiling of the pocket, with contact points surrounded in a layer of Dolomite crystallization, the only quartz in a domed pocket of bare Dolostone.

With HerkuLees safely packed, and hours left in the day, Lee sinks his chisel into another seam a foot away. Another bare-walled Dolostone pocket opens, revealing



a perfect double-terminated football sized 7lb Mohawk Diamond, "The Baby", again keying to the next addition to Lee's record setting day, another beautiful large skeletal cluster. "Thank you, mother nature," Lee exclaims as he kisses the 14.7lb "Medusa", named for the "M" pattern in face and crystal hair like the mythical Medusa. Together with HerkuLees, these two pockets produce over \$150,000 worth of record setting crystals in one afternoon.



“We make dreams come true everyday here” Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining owner Scott Hunt says with a smile, “I hit multiple skeletal pockets while removing the rock to get down to the bench Lee started on”. A self-proclaimed “non-rockhound”, in only two years Scott has found his dream through these rocks, with the biggest geological discoveries in the mining district. While more crystals have been found in the dirt at MVMM, the highest quality come from inside the ledge, in bare-walled domed pockets, and the best may have yet to be found. For a chance to make your dream come true, check out Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining on social media, and book your dig at mvmineralmining.com. Lee Levesque III's record crystals were on display at the big Tucson show in the spring of 2024, but you can watch the video of Lee pulling these crystals, filmed as it happened in “Dirtman Report: Goonie Road” on YouTube.



Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club's 58th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Saturday, September 28, 2024 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, September 29, 2024 10 a.m. - 4 a.m.

“NEW” Location:

Zembo Shrine Auditorium
2801 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

The Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show is a great opportunity to see a variety of items from all over the world. You'll find Exhibits from local dealers as well as those who travel to the show from all over the country. Our rock show offers something for everyone, with everything from rough rocks and crystals to finished jewelry. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced collector, this is the perfect place to find what you're looking for!

- Club member displays of rocks, minerals & fossils!
- Over 25 vendors of rocks, minerals and jewelry!
- Silent Auctions on the quarter hour!
- Kids Area with 25c wheel of rocks, mini-mine, more!
- Free prize drawings!
- Educational mineral and fossil displays!
- Relax and have lunch or refreshments in the cafeteria!
- Free off-street parking!

We can't wait to see you there!

Admission Information: \$6 or \$5 with postcard or Ad
Postcard is valid for up to 4 admissions
Children 12 and under free w/ paying adult
Scouts in uniform are free

<https://rockandmineral.org/rock-shows/58th-annual-gem-mineral-and-jewelry-show>



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, 5 October 2024
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
The stage will be a darkroom with fluorescent mineral vendors

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.

QR codes for mineralfest.com and [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mineralfest)

Maps and more at www.mineralfest.com

Blast from the Past - Acrostic Poetry from 2008 AFMS Poetry Winners

reprinted from A.F.M.S. Newsletter Vol 77 no 5 June 2024

Realgar

Rays of red and yellow
Erodes in the light
Arabic for “dust of the cave”
Lethal
Guard well
Arsenic ore
Romeo and Juliette



Photo Credit: 256px-Realgar-606199.jpg by John Sobolewski (JSS), CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Poem by Elijah Kemp (16), The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, from: *The Strata Data*, 2/08 (3rd Place - AFMS Junior Poetry)

Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN

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



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter
SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 9, 2023 - Field Trip Nov. 10
 Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

SECOND ANNUAL MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW

SHOW SATURDAY 8:30 - 6:00 ADMISSION FREE TO ALL

40 TABLES OF SELECTED VENDORS

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$ 15.00 Members \$10.00 Students free

Friday evening Nov. 8: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors

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

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

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

Green Pennsylvania Minerals...

Is the theme of the 2024 FM-PA Symposium (see above), in keeping with the 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium (February 2025): Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds. *Photos by D. Glick.*



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



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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

<https://efmls.org/events/>

See other show calendar links on our web site.

August 16-18, 2024: Gem Miner’s Jubilee Gem & Jewelry show. Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon PA. Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-4.

<https://www.gem-show.com/summer-show>

Sept. 28-29, 2024: 58th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, by Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club.

Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 2801 N 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. See page 6.

<https://rockandmineral.org/rock-shows/58th-annual-gem-mineral-and-jewelry-show>

October 5, 2024: Fall Mineralfest, by Penna. Earth Sciences Assoc. Macungie, PA. Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00.

See page 6 and <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

Nov. 2- 3, 2024: Gemarama Annual Show, by Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center,

100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. Saturday 10-6 / Sunday 10-5. <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

Nov. 9-10, 2024: Annual Symposium & Field Trip, by Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter. See p. 7.

Geo-Sudoku Solution

A	C	S	F	P	E	N	U	R
F	U	R	N	A	C	E	S	P
E	N	P	S	R	U	A	F	C
R	F	E	P	C	N	U	A	S
P	A	C	U	S	F	R	E	N
U	S	N	A	E	R	C	P	F
N	E	A	R	F	S	P	C	U
C	R	F	E	U	P	S	N	A
S	P	U	C	N	A	F	R	E

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

mailing address:

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.
c/o S. Bingham, Treasurer
145 Goddard Cir.
Penna. Furnace PA 16865

SOCIETY OFFICERS

David Glick (President) 814-810-2116 (h)

e-mail: xidg@verizon.net

Dr. Bob Altamura (Vice-President) 814-234-5011 (h)

e-mail: raltamura@comcast.net

Dr. Barry Scheetz (Secretary) 814-360-8241 (cell)

e-mail: se6@psu.edu

Stuart Bingham (Treasurer)

e-mail: sebing145@comcast.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Field Trips: Dale Kephart

e-mail: beckdale2@comcast.net

Junior Rockhounds: Dr. Andrew Sicree

814-867-6263 (h) e-mail: aas132@psu.edu

Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)

Programs: Dr. Duff Gold 865-7261(o), 238-3377(h)

e-mail: dpgold33@comcast.net, gold@ems.psu.edu

Door Prizes: Dr. Bob Altamura (see above)

Facebook: John Dziak: dziakj1@gmail.com

Publicity:

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

425 Armagast Rd. phone: (814) 810-2116 (h)

Bellefonte, PA 16823-9762

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 (good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.

Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org