

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

November, 2025

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

November 19th meeting:

IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

**Late Paleozoic stratigraphy and sedimentary environments (and maybe a little structure, too):
Examples from a mapping perspective in the western Broad Top region, south central Pennsylvania**

**by Chris Oest, P.G.,
Senior Geoscientist**

Pennsylvania Bureau of Geological Survey

Our November meeting will be held Wednesday the 19th 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.*

The Pennsylvania Geological Survey has been engaged in mapping efforts in the Broad Top region since 2017. The third (and final) phase of detailed mapping has recently been completed. This effort focused on mapping the structurally complex western portion of the Broad Top coalfield in addition to the adjacent Late Paleozoic rocks. This talk will summarize the results of the most recent mapping effort, including a revised stratigraphic framework for the region, new biostratigraphic data, and many newly-identified structures within the Broad Top coalfield.



In the Broad Top Field. Photo courtesy Chris Oest.

Trilobite request for Penns Valley 4th grade

Penn State Geosciences graduate students Kayla Irizarry (who presented our September 2023 program) and Karen Van-Thu Pham (on the EMS Museum Advisory Board) are working to “develop a fossil lesson for 4th graders in the Penns Valley School District... we are putting together fossils kits for the lesson but we are sadly missing trilobite specimens. We are hoping to find some local examples of trilobites, as the lesson is based on Pennsylvania geology. It would also be OK if the trilobites were not from Pennsylvania, that is just our ideal scenario, but we welcome any donations! We are hoping to gather 2-3 good examples of trilobites.”

If you can donate a specimen or two or three, please bring them (with whatever information is known about them written down) to the November 19th meeting, or contact Dave Glick (see page 8).
-Editor

Old members, new members

David Glick, NMS Membership Chair

Our membership year started on November 1. If you haven't renewed yet, please do! If you'd like to join, please do! The form is available on the web at <<http://www.nittanymineral.org/mem.htm>>. Feel free to save a stamp and bring your form and dues to a

Continued on page 2

ATTENDING THE NOVEMBER 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!

Members*continued from page 1*

meeting. OR, use the PayPal connection on our web site which has been updated for the new membership year (and email the dues form). Your dues are used for programs and speakers, meeting hall rental, refreshments, outreach and educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. We look forward to your continuing membership!

Annual Meeting and Elections Held in October

by David Glick, NMS President

The October 15th meeting was the **Annual Meeting of the Corporation**. The incumbent officers (listed on page 8) had been put forward by the nominating committee as the slate, and there being no other candidates, they were elected by acclamation. See page 6 for the President's report.

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 the left sidebar of our web site, <<http://www.nittanymineral.org>>.

The AFMS recent newsletters are now all available on their web site <<https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>>. In the November issue, an illustrated article discusses "pineapple opals" (pseudomorphs of opal after ikaite, $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$). AFMS Rockhound of the Year honorees are introduced. AFMS Scholarship Honorees and Student recipients for all Federations are announced. For EFMLS, they are at the University of Maine. The (faculty) Honoree is Dr. Alicia M. Cruz-Uribe, and the students are Josephine Fernholz and Lauren Madsen.

The Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> November Newsletter includes the message from president Andrew "Rockhound," reprinted on page 3. The Wildacres Workshop Committee has information about their May 11-17, 2026, session, in an article reprinted at right.

- Editor



2026 Wildacres Announcement

from EFMLS News v. 72 no. 11, November 2025

We are very excited about our May 2026 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. We now have fixed dates for our workshop from Monday May 11 to Sunday May 17, 2025.

We also have a terrific line-up of classes and instructors: Cabbing with Rick Marshall; Faceting with Bernie Emery; Stone Inlay (not intarsia) with Chuck Bruce; Fused Glass with Carol Zodrow; Precious Metal Clay- Silver with Susan Brooks; Viking Knit with Val Johnson; Advanced Wire- Wrapping with Jacolyn Campbell; and Geology with Dr. Mike Wise.

All classes will now be 4-day classes. This will strengthen and unite classes, without having new students come in later, and will make registration choices easier.

Our 2026 EFMLS Speaker-in-Residence will be Robert Weldon. He is one of the world's most prominent gem and jewelry photographers and a respected journalist with over 35 years in the trade. His images and stories have enriched numerous articles in *Gems & Gemology* and other publications and books, with over forty of his photos gracing the journal's cover. I am sure that all our Wildacres participants will be fascinated with Robert's photos and stories from all over the world. He is a kind and gentle soul, with a great sense of humor, and is thrilled to be able to come to Wildacres and share his passion.

The Registration fee for 2026 will be \$525. This covers class tuition, room with bath (double occupancy) and three full meals per day. Additional materials class costs will range, depending on the class's materials needs. All that information will soon be on the EFMLS/Wildacres website.

To all club Presidents, please consider offering your club members a scholarship to Wildacres. At the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society, interested participants put their name in a hat, and the scholarship winner is drawn during the Holiday party. Quoting longtime Wildacres participant and Committee member Lynne Emery, "once someone has been there, they get 'hooked' and will then convince others what a fabulous adventure and opportunity it is."

Looking forward to seeing all of you "On the Mountain" in 2026.



EFMLS President's Message

from
Andrew Rockhound
EFMLS News v. 72 no. 11
November 2025

It's November, welcome everyone to a new year for the EFMLS! My second term as president is beginning, along with 1st VP Matt Charsky, and someone I am very excited to have join the team, John Sweeney from the New York Syracuse club as 2nd VP! As president, I can proudly say after the past year of leadership, the EFMLS is very strong and confidently moving into 2026, better than ever! We are excited to serve you in the coming year...

Prior to writing this, I looked back at my incoming president's message from a year ago and after the absolutely challenging year 2025 was for me in geological politics, I have gained amazing experience and knowledge that will only translate into a better organizational leader in my final term as president. In November 2024, to fully understand the office that I was elected to in this organization and its role for the clubs we serve, I took on an amazing experiment that has led to gaining new insights, experience and ideas for clubs across the board. That experiment was called Geology Club, and from the very start, it has been an overwhelming education into the dynamics of the club and member relationship. When you change every single thing about club engagement, some things don't work, but what has worked, has translated into an amazing success, evolving club/member engagement for the future, and more is on the way. As I stated in my address to the AFMS convention in NC this past spring, I will be happy to share the successes and failures across the EFMLS for other clubs to utilize, and hope to share an article or two in the newsletter during 2026...

Clubs, be on the lookout in December for club and insurance renewal! I have already received emails asking for them; however, we cannot update them for 2026 until we know rates from our insurance company Brown & Brown. Stay tuned, we will get them to you as soon as we can!

Club newsletter editors, we need to pass the BEAC awards onto a new chair, and are looking for someone to learn from the process this year, so we are prepared for administering the awards process in the future.

Do you have a favorite post-grad college or university in the geology field with students that could use a \$4,000 scholarship from the AFMS/EFMLS? Send me your suggestion, and I will consider it!

Would you like to know more about the EFMLS and what we do? Let me know! I would be happy to make you part of the team, and doing what you do best! Send me your info and include what you are good at (club/organization wise), I will check it out and see how you can fit in...

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone, see you in December!

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters ACDEFILLO. You'll note we're breaking the rules by using L twice, but to compensate it's a relatively simple puzzle, and I found it about as hard to solve as our others. One row or column relates to this month's program; if you've read all of this issue, you've seen it. Again, we're not following the rule that "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.

					D	A		I
		A	L				L	D
			L	A	C	L		
E		O		D		I		C
	L	C		I		O	E	
	A			C		F		
F	C		I	E	A	D		
A	E		D					
O						L		E

Hybrid Zones Art Exhibit

HUB-Robeson Galleries on the Penn State University Park campus have a new exhibit by artists Rachel Bacon and Meredith Davenport entitled Hybrid Zones. See details at <<https://whereandwhen.com/events/hybrid-zones/>>. "Slag heaps transform into forests; acid mine drainage becomes raw material for photographic emulsions; and archival maps bleed into reimagined geographies."

A companion exhibit, featuring more of the science (such as acid mine drainage), will open very soon in the Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum in Deike Building.

-Editor

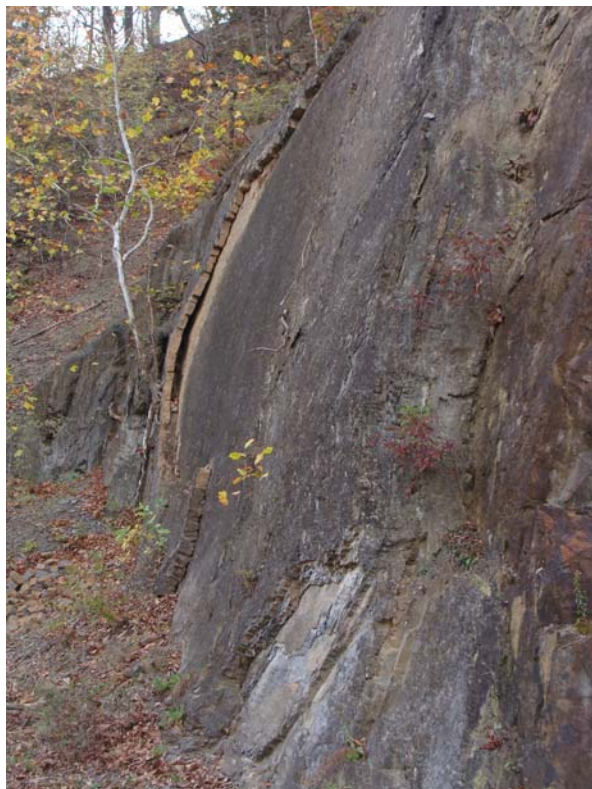
Landscapes & Geology Tour Saturday October 18

by Bob Altamura

We held another variation on our regional tour to view geology and landscapes, and consider how they have affected human habitation and accomplishments, on October 18, 2025.



View overlooking Bear Meadows. R. Altamura photo.



Outcrop at Barree David Clark Little photo



View of Bear Meadows showing structural geology interpretation of eroded folded bedrock and a resulting interpretation of structure and topography (valleys are anticlines, ridges are synclines). Black dashed lines represent folded strata of the Silurian Tuscarora and Ordovician Juniata and Bald Eagle Formations which have eroded away. White dashed line shows the trace of the anticlinal fold axis that plunges to the southwest. From NMS Bulletin February 2017



Outcrop of Silurian Tuscarora Formation on the south-east slope of Jacks Mountain. David Clark Little photo



Bear Meadows Natural Area. The National Park Service web site says, "a shallow peat bog surrounded by a buffer zone of typical Appalachian forest. The vast accumulation of pollen and spores in the peat has aided research and understanding of vegetation and climatic changes in the region." David Clark Little photo



View from Jacks Mountain; the green, forested zone in the near ground is the Devonian Ridgeley Formation of quartz sandstone. Where mined for glass sand at Mapleton Depot, PA, and Berkeley Springs, WV, it is pure and friable. *R. Altamura photo.*



The view in two directions from Jacks Mountain illustrates the influence of geology on human habitation and progress. To the northwest (*R. Altamura photo above*) is an anticlinal valley in limestone, which weathers into soils well suited for farming. To the southeast (*David Clark Little photo below*) is a synclinal valley exposing younger clastic rocks, not as good for agriculture.



Nittany Mineralogical Society President's Annual Report 11/2024 - 10/2025

by David Glick

NMS held nine in-person meetings, an official holiday dinner, three social dinners, and a picnic during the year. We have recorded many of our meeting programs, with presenters' permission, for later posting on our web site; I will get the last two posted soon. We are very grateful to those who make the significant effort to present meeting programs.

The editor produced ten Bulletins as usual; thank you to those providing material. I didn't get membership cards and directory done this past year, but really do expect to do them in the next few months after the cycle of renewals is complete.

The Board of Directors consisted of David Glick, President; Bob Altamura, Vice president, Stuart Bingham, Treasurer; Barry Scheetz, Secretary; Duff Gold, Program Chair; Andrew Sicree, Junior Rockhounds Chair; and Dale Kephart, Field Trip Chair. Frank Kowalczyk was Minerals Junior Education Day Coordinator, and Charlie Miller organized social dinners. Sincere thanks go to all of them for keeping the Society running.

The Board went for a while without a meeting, but we had one on July 28 and got a lot done. We had another brief one on September 16 to set the slate of candidates for the October 15th election.

Treasurer Stuart Bingham presented a report as of September 30 to the members present at the meeting. The Society's finances are doing well. The majority of the large John Passaneau bequest in a CD at Kish Bank earns over 4%. Part of the Passaneau bequest remains in a money market account at Citizens Bank to be more accessible. The checking account has a few thousand dollars and varies a lot as dues come in and expenses go out.

As we said last year, we would be happy to have a physical home for the Society - let us know if you have any leads - but on the open market we need another couple of hundred thousand dollars to do that. Our supporter John Stitzinger continues to investigate real estate that might work for nonprofits such as ours, including sharing of space.

Also as we said last year, our fluorite display at Penn State's Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery has been up for (now) three years, so it's time to be working on a new display. We're talking about revisiting one of our earliest displays, on our local oolitic chert.

I continue to serve on the Advisory Board for the Museum. I helped a bit with their small, test open house at their storage & preparation facility, and went on the tour as part of that, which was very good. They might offer us a tour, and are also hoping to do a rock and mineral identification event for the public, at which we could assist.

We participated in the big Maker Faire® at Axemann Brewery on September 20-21, with Bob Altamura demonstrating lapidary, making gemstones from rough material, with Barry Scheetz, George Farrant, Dale Kephart and myself helping. Bob and I will promote NMS at the Rhoneymeade Fall Festival on October 25.

It has been a big year for donations. We received more items from Shirley Fonda, and a small 4H award winning mineral collection. In early September we took Barry Scheetz and Frank Kowalczyk's pickup trucks and Bob Altamura and I went to Lewisburg to get lots of lapidary equipment, cabinets and rough materials. Through the year we've been picking up donations of materials collected on family trips a few decades ago, plus quartz crystals no doubt from stockpiles for radio frequency uses. Stu Bingham has done a huge amount of work on that.

Looking forward, we expect to have the usual December holiday dinner & sale on December 17, the usual meeting date.

We are looking for meeting programs for 2026; suggestions are welcome. We expect that Minerals Junior Education Day will be Saturday March 28, 2026 (we'll announce that as soon as it's definite), so it's time to start thinking about volunteering for that.

As we said last year, we will plan to have some field trips. We'll work on the next museum exhibit, and we'd like to provide exhibits in schools, if there are opportunities. We have a huge amount of donated material in storage, and we will continue to organize and categorize it, for teaching, exhibits, door prizes, giveaways, donations, and sales. A "garage sale" where both the Society and the members could sell would be very useful, if we can find a good venue for that.

I'll conclude with our annual plea: 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 next time around. 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!**

Rhoneymeade Fall Festival Report

By David Glick

NMS was invited to participate in the Fall Festival of nature and conservation related groups at Rhoneymeade Arboretum and Sculpture Garden outside Centre Hall, PA, on Saturday, October 25th. We had a nice spot inside a tent, and several dozen visitors came by during the day. Bob Altamura and Dave Glick discussed geology as illustrated by rock samples and local and state maps, identified some rocks, and talked about cutting and polishing gemstones. A poster showed the various activities of Nittany Mineralogical Society, and brochures were handed out.



Visitors at the NMS table.

R. Altamura photo



NMS Vice president Bob Altamura at the NMS table.

D. Glick photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.
<https://efmls.org/events/>

See other show calendar links on our web site.

Mar. 7 - 8, 2026: 62nd 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. Info and Coupons at www.DMSrocks.org , www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow

May 11 - 17, 2026 - EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, Spring Session at Little Switzerland, NC. For information about the workshops and registration, visit www.efmls.org/wildacres See page 2.

Geo-Sudoku Solution

L	L	F	E	O	D	A	C	I
C	O	A	L	F	I	E	L	D
I	D	E	L	A	C	L	F	O
E	F	O	A	D	L	I	L	C
D	L	C	F	I	L	O	E	A
L	A	I	O	C	E	F	D	L
F	C	L	I	E	A	D	O	L
A	E	L	D	L	O	C	I	F
O	I	D	C	L	F	L	A	E



A drier part of Bear Meadows; see page 4.
 David Clark Little photo.

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 and form to the next meeting.

We want to welcome you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Come to our meetings on the third
 Wednesday of the month - see page 1

mailing address:

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 Penna. Furnace PA 16865

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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 Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)
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 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; please send them as separate graphics files (high quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.

Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org