Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

August, 2023 **Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org** *Editor (see back page): David C. Glick*

August 16th meeting,
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL:

Show and Tell
by
NMS members and visitors

Our August meeting will be held Wednesday the 16th 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." We will serve some refreshments - snacks and a few 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.

We won't Zoom this meeting, but we plan to record the presentations (with permission) for later posting to our web site. -Editor

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. ❄

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!

NMS Picnic August 26
from Bob Altamura

We are planning a poolside NMS picnic at my house near Lemont on **Saturday August 26th 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! Those who want to stay later 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, 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> 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 26th!

Phasing out Zoom?
David Glick, NMS President

We've been sending most of our meeting programs out via Zoom for three years now. However, participation is down, and it takes a lot of our time and effort, seemingly with a different problem every time. We are considering just recording the programs for later posting on the web site; they would still be online, just not in real time. We could probably do occasional real-time Zoom sessions via EFMLS. Please contact me soon if you have any thoughts about this.

Willard S. Truckenmiller
1933-2023

We are deeply saddened to report that our friend, avid lapidary and past NMS member Willard Truckenmiller passed away May 6, 2023, at age 90. Willard attended our monthly meetings for many years, where his experience, knowledge, and good humor were greatly valued and appreciated.

His work and interests were featured in the December 2007 issue of this Bulletin, available on the web site. He loaned many of his petrified wood slabs (photo below) for the NMS display case in the Penn State Mineral Museum in 2011 (see the April and May 2011 issues on the web site).

A wide variety of petrified wood slabs in Willard's collection, 2007. *R. Altamura photo.*

An obituary is available at https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/centredaily/name/willard-truckenmiller-obituary?id=51827239

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 (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 June Newsletter, President Cheryl Neary discusses the benefits of volunteering, and notes that some people may need a nudge - being "voluntold." A rockhounding newsletter for kids by kids is being started; special thank-you gifts are available for donations of $75 to the AFMS Juniors programs. Cheryl Neary reports on <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/geomarkers.aspx>, a website which shows the approximately 50 geological roadside markers to be found in Montana. Continuing the month's starting letter theme, there are articles on jewelry (including J-color diamonds) and the Jurassic. Ellery Borow's safety article covers exposure to - and avoiding exposure to - ultraviolet light. Items donated for the Endowment Fund auction at the annual convention are illustrated.

The Eastern Federation's June Newsletter includes materials for the July convention in Syracuse, New York. Ellery Borow writes on "Uniform Rules or Club Rules" for competitive exhibit cases.

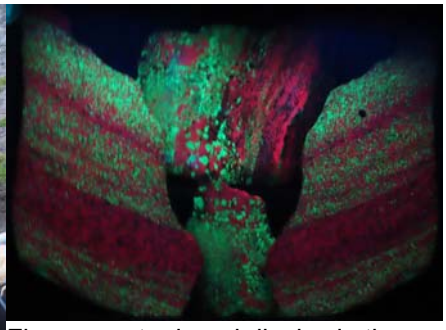
NMS BOARD MEETING NOTICE

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 is expected to be later this month. 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.

Multi-Club Picnic in New Jersey and New Jersey State Mineral

from Mike Dunton
photos by Dan Sackerman

Preparing for a special mine tour.



Fluorescent mineral display in the museum.

The multi-club picnic at Sterling Hill on June 10 seemed pretty successful. About 90 people attended - kind of a mini-Super Dig although you cannot collect in the pits anymore, just on the rock piles. There was a good combination of newbies and experienced collectors, and a lot of talk between clubs on collecting spots, speakers, etc. NMS member Jim Van Fleet was there, in his Nittany Mineralogical Society shirt, selling small specimens of NJ's brand new state mineral, franklinite (see announcement below).

Collecting on the rock piles.

Lining up for burgers and hot dogs

Good morning,

On behalf of the Office of Legislative Affairs, I would like to formally notify you that the Governor will be signing the below bill tomorrow, July 19th, 2023 – thank you and congratulations!

- S1727/A3393 (Oroho, Durr/ Space, Wirths, Rooney) - Designates franklinite as official mineral of State of NJ.

With warmest regards,
Devin Mulroy (she/her)
Legislative Aide
Office of Governor Phil Murphy

Franklinite announcement

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters ADGHILSTY. One row or column includes the November FM-PA field trip site. 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.

A		I			S		W	N
			P	A				
Q		P	W		I			
I	P	A		W				
		N	S			W	P	
				R	P			A
P				S			Q	R
		Q				S		
	N	R			E		I	W

A Landscape & Geology Field Tour of Seven Mountains and Scotia, Central Pennsylvania

By Robert Altamura

On June 27th, 2023, some Nittany Mineralogical Society members went on a field tour led by club member Bob Altamura to Seven Mountains and to Scotia, the historical iron mining community of more than a century ago, with a goal of gaining an appreciation of the landscapes and geology of central Pennsylvania. This field tour complemented an NMS meeting presentation on landscapes and geology of Pennsylvania and a pilot landscape and geology tour given by Bob during 2022. The field party gathered at Jo Hays Vista (Figure 1) which overlooks the Nittany Valley in southern Centre County; then went south into northern Huntingdon County. The next stop was at Monroe Furnace, to view the ruins of an historical blast furnace (Figure 2) and to discuss historical iron mining and smelting using charcoal iron furnaces in central Pennsylvania. A pile of dark brown glassy furnace slag, once the molten waste of the iron refining process, was discovered in the nearby woods by the group.

Figure 1. Group convenes at Jo Hays Vista in morning fog. Fortunately the fog cleared. (*Courtesy of B. Scheetz*)

Next, a roadcut into bedrock near the spillway of Whipple Dam in Whipple Dam State Park revealed a relatively small scale (3rd- to 4th order: wavelength of 10's of feet) anticlinal fold within the Silurian Castanea member of the Tuscarora Formation (Figure 3). This fold is likely to be parasitic to regional 1st- or 2nd- order scale (wavelength of 1.5 to 11 miles) such as the Nittany Anticlinorium underlying Nittany Valley, evidence for which can be observed from Jo Hays Vista.

Figure 2. Group of historical remains of Monroe furnace near Pine Grove Mills. (*Courtesy of B. Scheetz*)

Figure 3. Field party examining bedrock composed of the Castanea member of the Silurian (~440 million years old) Tuscarora Formation. (*Courtesy of B. Scheetz*)

We then visited a small bedrock quarry excavated by the Bureau of Forestry into a shaly member of the Silurian Rose Hill Formation (Figure 4). Rock materials here are used for maintenance of roads and such throughout the forest. Some discovered crinoid fossils in some exposed beds. A stockpile of limestone cobbles, quarried elsewhere and trucked in, was also on site. Calcite and dolomite veins were observed in some of these cobbles, reminiscent of rock currently quarried near the village of Oak Hall, the closest active limestone quarry to this site.

Figure 4. Scene at the shale quarry. (*Courtesy of B. Scheetz*)

Traveling northeast along the axis of the Laurel Run Road syncline, the field caravan then drove up in elevation (~2000 feet) to a vista along Bear Gap Road which affords a view of mountain ridges to the northwest. From there we traveled to our highest elevation of (~ 2400 feet) near the head of North Meadow Road, which is normally closed to vehicular traffic. With permission from Rothrock State Forest we gained access to that road, which afforded great views of Bear Meadows bog, some 500 feet below, as well as adjacent mountain slopes defining two limbs of a plunging 2nd – order (wavelength: 1 to 1.5 miles) anticline. Bear Meadows bog has been forming since the ice age (Pleistocene Epoch) and is a protected National Natural Landmark. The Seven Mountains portion of the field tour ended at Bear Meadows where we enjoyed a picnic lunch, albeit partly during a rain shower. Blocks of the Silurian Tuscarora sandstone on display near the parking lot revealed *Skolithos* ichnofossils (preserved worm burrows) that were of interest to the field party.

From there the caravan left Rothrock State Forest and drove northwest via US 322 to Scotia in Centre County, an historical open-pit iron ore quarry and the ruins of a village which in its day had a post office, a train station, church, and many houses for the community of workers that operated the quarry and scattered prospect pits and their families. Very little remains can be found today of what was once a thriving community. During the earliest days of quarrying, iron ore was transported to Centre iron furnace near State College and other nearby blast furnaces (Williams, 1992). During 1880, the operation was purchased and operated by the famous American industrialist, Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie named the village Scotia after his place of birth, Scotland (Williams, 1992). Iron ore was sent by train to the west to Pittsburgh where Carnegie had significant iron smelting refineries. Scotia's glory years were from 1881 to 1911 (Williams, 1992). Today, more than a century after operations ceased, most buildings are in ruin. During 1899, with a belief of decreased availability of iron ore at Scotia and the discovery of large sources of iron ore, that of the Mesabi iron range in Minnesota, Carnegie sold the operations at Scotia to the Bellefonte Furnace Company, which operated for a fair number of years, ceasing during 1914 (Williams, 1992). These days the historical community of Scotia is in ruins and might best be described as a ghost town. The land of Scotia is currently under the authority of the Pennsylvania Game Commission which encourages nature lovers, hikers, mountain bikers, and of course hunters.

Our field party followed a path through the forest on the way to the main quarry. We observed prospect pits on both sides of the path, seemingly everywhere. The main quarry is water-filled, and recent drought conditions had lowered the water table significantly such that bedrock, iron bearing rock containing abundant goethite and limonite, was exposed for us to observe (Figure 5).

What historical Scotia miners referred to as "wash ore" (more or less hand-sample size) and "block ore" (more or less desk size) were seen near and within the pit (Figure 6). Deeper "pipe ore" found at other nearby iron ore localities in central Pennsylvania was not observed.

Figure 5. Bedrock exposed within a large open pit at Scotia due to recent drought conditions. (*Photo by the author*)

Figure 6. Block ore and wash ore exposed on the floor of the open quarry visited. (*Photo by the author*)

On the walk back to the vehicles, Bob led the field party to ruins of some reinforced concrete constructed buildings and structures, which although somewhat prominent in the forest are in a state of ruin. These concrete structures are believed to have been constructed during a strategic minerals effort by the federal government during WWII (1940s) (e.g., Williams, 1992).

Figure 7. Field party at the end of the field tour. *(Courtesy of B. Scheetz)*

The field day ended during mid-afternoon in open sunshine, with a group photo and some new friendships. (Figure 7).

REFERENCE CITED

Williams, H.M., 1992, The story of Scotia: The Centre County Historical Society, State College, Pennsylvania, 113 pages.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to the field trip attendees and to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry for allowing the field party access to their open-pit shale quarry along Laurel Run Road and for access to mountain roads that are normally closed to vehicular traffic. The author is particularly grateful to Barry Scheetz for driving the lead vehicle and taking photographs, and to Mike Canich and George Pedlow for discussions concerning Scotia.

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

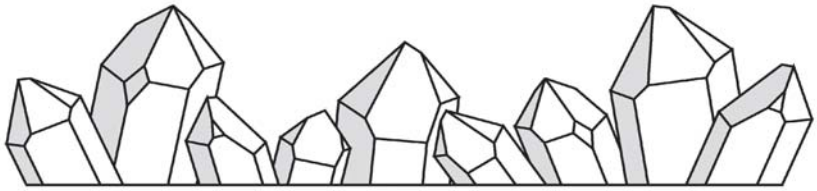
Saturday, 7 October 2023

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
Fluorescent mineral exhibit by courtesy of the Franklin Mineral Museum



mineralfest.com

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.

facebook

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!

Enjoy our Club member displays of rocks, minerals and fossils!

Visit over 25 vendors of rocks, minerals and jewelry! (on web site)

Join in the Silent Quarter Auction- auctions every quarter hour

Kids Area - play, mini-mine, more!

Enter into our Free prize drawing

Educational displays!

Lunch, refreshments in the cafeteria!

Free presentations by Jeri Jones! (schedule on web site)

General Admission only $6, Kids 12 and under- FREE! (Hint… look for our flier or postcard for $1 off admission!)

Scouts in uniform are free!

rockandmineral.org/annual-show

Rockin' in the Alleghenies

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

JOHNSTOWN, PA - November 11, 2023

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

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!
See "Join FM" on the web site

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.

Sept. 23-24, 2023: 57th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, by Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club. Harrisburg Consistory, 2701 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. See page 7 and https://rockandmineral.org/annual-show/

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/

Oct. 28, 2023: Ultraviolation Fluorescent-only Mineral Show, by R&M Club of Lower Bucks County. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. Sat. Only, 9-4. https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/shows

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 should open soon. 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/

Geo-Sudoku Solution

A	R	I	E	Q	S	P	W	N
N	**E**	**W**	**P**	**A**	**R**	**I**	**S**	**Q**
Q	S	P	W	N	I	R	A	E
I	P	A	N	W	Q	E	R	S
R	Q	N	S	E	A	W	P	I
E	W	S	I	R	P	Q	N	A
P	I	E	A	S	W	N	Q	R
W	A	Q	R	I	N	S	E	P
S	N	R	Q	P	E	A	I	W

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:
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