

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10664

State College PA 16805

Editor (see page 8):

David C. Glick

December, 2010

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

**December 15th meeting:
6:30 p.m. to ~9:00, at a special location:**

Holiday Social & Sale at Prospector's Restaurant

Our December meeting will be held Wednesday the 15th at 6:30 p.m., in the private room of Prospector's Allegheny Rib Company at 2080 Cato Avenue, just off West College Ave. (PA 26 South) across from Harner Farms. See directions at right.

The event has free admission, free parking, and free snacks, and is open to all – please come, bring your family and guests, and share an enjoyable evening! -Editor

Our December meeting will be our annual Holiday Social & Sale. It is open to all NMS members and guests; admission is free to all. It will be at Prospector's restaurant (directions at right); our event will be in the private room (from the front door, it's straight ahead to the back section, then turn right and continue to the room). Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and close at about 9:00 or later; everyone may come and go on their own schedule.

Snacks and appetizers from the restaurant will be provided by NMS, and individuals can order beverages and food in the room. Of course the restaurant and bar are available to attendees throughout the evening; you can enjoy a full dinner in their dining room before, during or after the event. They are open all evening.

We have arrangements with NMS members to have a variety of items for sale. Ruth Park will have semi-precious stone necklaces and bracelets, fun glass, and nice cultured pearls. Tim Holtz' Rock World will be selling mineral specimens and a variety of quartz crystals (including some large crystals). Joe Dague has sent Pennsylvania and worldwide specimens at a variety of prices, with sales to be managed by Andrew Sicree. Steve and Sarah Poterala will be offering gold & silver earrings, necklaces, and rings, as well as loose faceted gemstones. We thank all of these members for participating and adding to our event, and for providing a portion of their sales to NMS.

The club will have for sale NMS T-shirts, mineral sets, and posters. Also, NMS will have a small silent auction of three or four donated specimens. We do not plan to have door prizes at this meeting.

We hope you can make it. Each year we have a good time socializing while selecting from the interesting items for sale.

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ATTENDING THE DECEMBER MEETING?

This event is free and open to all - bring a friend!

No door prizes this month - bring them next month.

Directions to Prospector's for the December meeting

From downtown State College, Atherton Street & College Avenue near campus: go "west" on West College Avenue (PA Route 26 South) away from town 3.0 miles. Just past Dix Honda, turn left on to Cato Avenue, then immediately turn right into the parking lot. If you're still on West College when you get to State College Ford and Uni-Mart at Whitehall Road, you've gone too far. - Editor

Junior Rockhounds Meet December 15th

Junior Rockhounds meetings are being held on Wednesdays. In December, the meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the 15th, in room 116 Earth & Engineering Sciences Building. After the meeting, Junior Rockhounds and their families and guests are invited to come to the Holiday Sale & Social (see article at left).

We expect to continue the third-Wednesday meetings in the same building in January. Please watch for details on the web site or in the January Bulletin after we have reserved a room.

Each month's meeting has a new topic or topics with fun, hands-on learning for the kids. We encourage those who attend to become NMS members, but it's not required. Just \$7.00 covers a whole year (through October 2011) of student membership. Parents may get a lot out of the meetings, too!

Check the web site for news, or contact Dr. Andrew Sicree (see page 8).
- Editor

Tax-deductible donations welcomed

by David Glick, NMS President

NMS received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS during 2008, which means that your donations to NMS are tax-deductible. Your donations will help fund our educational purpose and programs. Please make checks payable to 'NMS, Inc.,' include a memo noting that it is a donation, and send to the P.O. Box (in banner, above), or contact the president or treasurer (see p. 8) for more information.

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NEWS FROM THE FEDERATIONS

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 present brief summaries here in order to encourage readers to see the entire newsletters.

The **EFMLS Newsletter** is available through the link on our web site www.ems.psu.edu/nms/ or remind Dave Glick to bring a printed copy to a meeting for you to see.

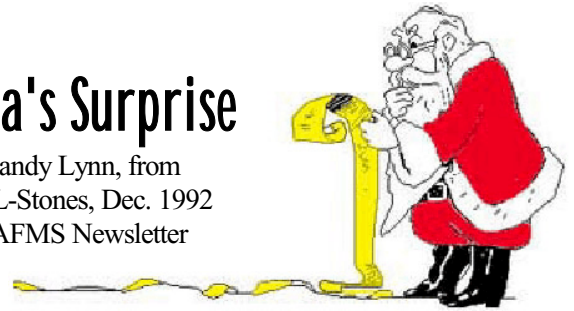
In the December issue, Ellery Borow discusses safety chairpersons and the importance of passing along all pertinent information to a new chairperson. President Betsy Oberheim shares stories of her annual camping and collecting trip. Cathy Paterson continues her series on how to construct and submit a yearbook for an All American Club award; the deadline for submission is February 1, 2011. Carolyn Weinberger provides a memorial to Roger Barnett, micromounter, competitive exhibitor, judge, and 1983-84 EFMLS President. Pennsylvanian Ralph E. Thomas is recognized as a Club Rockhound of the Year; he's known to many outside of the Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County for his extensive involvement with that club's annual Ultravioletation fluorescent minerals show and other outreach activities. News about the July EFMLS/AFMS convention in Syracuse, New York, continues; call the host hotel directly to get the special rate, and plan to present an exhibit case at the show. The EFMLS Wildacres Spring Workshop has been scheduled for April 11-17, 2011; details will be available very soon.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. In the December issue, how and why to create an All American Club Yearbook is covered. ALAA, the American Lands Access Association, announces that they will meet at Quartzsite, Arizona, on January 19, 2011, during the Quartzsite PowWow. Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair, presents ideas about club publicity. The California federation has compiled a detailed document listing ideas for show activities and display ideas for kids; many could be applied outside of shows as well (from www.cfmsinc.org choose "manuals" at the top left, then choose #14). A safety article reminds us that rushing through lapidary projects can be dangerous - it's "Lapidary not Rapidary," say authors Don Monroe and Linda Behr. The editors' column summarizes Gary Raham's talk "Writing for Kids: Be Wild, Witty and Wise... In 800 words or less." The ALAA column discusses possible Forest Service and BLM changes in land-use management. An award-winning article on "Why Micromounts?" is reprinted. The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in South Dakota is described; see www.rockhoundhalloffame.org. Finally, the editor ponders some thoughts about web sites.

Please see the web sites for the complete Newsletters. There's a lot there!
- Editor

Santa's Surprise

by Sandy Lynn, from
Cobb-L-Stones, Dec. 1992
via AFMS Newsletter



'Twas a cold Christmas Eve and Santa came calling -
The stars were all twinkling, the snow had stopped falling.
Next house on his list didn't run normally -
Rockhounds lived here, (they lived quite informally).

First thing he did as he came in the den,
was trip over a tumbler - he took quite a spin.
On to the kitchen for cake and a coke -
What he saw in the window almost made him choke.

Lining the window sills - strange little rocks -
He let out an "OUCH" (he had one in his socks).
Went to the living room - sat in a chair -
But he was up like a bullet - more rocks down there.

Cars in the driveway, covered with snow.
The garage? Full of rocks (wouldn't you know).
Mom and Pop's room was the strangest by far...
Big rocks, little rocks, rocks in a jar!

The rocks on the dresser someone had marked "Super" -
Santa stared for awhile, then left in a stupor.
He went to the john and turned rather pale -
No one would believe this incredible tale!

He looked around warily, scratched his white beard -
No doubt about it, these people were weird.
Rocks in the sink, rocks on the floor -
But in the bathtub, THE BATHTUB?, he couldn't
stand more.

He looked rather shaken, he stopped by the tree -
A doll for sweet Susie, a guitar for Lee.
For Mom and for Pop he just left a short note -
Put it under a rock - this he hurriedly wrote:

"I'm sure you're not bad folks, just hopeless", it said,
"I honestly think, you've got rocks in your head!"

Field Trip Reports

by David Glick

Scotia Iron Ore Mining Area

Following Bob Hazleton's November NMS meeting presentation on the history of Scotia, he and his colleagues led a field trip there on November 20. About a dozen NMS members toured the central part of the historic iron mining area. The visible remains of ore processing facilities are mostly concrete from the 1940s, although reshaping of the land for railroad grades, loading ramps, etc., around earlier facilities is still evident. There was plenty of discussion, and NMS members hope to be able to provide some help to the Scotia history group in the future. See the photographs at right.

Although this was not primarily a collecting trip, some iron ore (goethite and hematite) and small pieces of oolitic chert were found at the pit where the ground was bare. Water levels were as low as anyone had seen them.

Hanson Aggregates Oak Hall Quarry

On December 4, 2010, members of Nittany Mineralogical Society collected mineral specimens at Hanson Aggregates North America's Oak Hall Quarry near State College, PA. It was cold and breezy at the gate, but a little better within the quarry where there was shelter from the wind. Ten members attended, including some from out of town, and everyone found some worthwhile specimens. Local mineralogist Andrew Sicree provided a brief geological and mineralogical introduction to the site.

The group started by collecting strontianite specimens, most of which were the coarse crystal-aggregate vug-filling bundles up to about 3 cm which are typically found there. Some smaller, finer hemispherical "starburst" aggregates, 1 cm or less in diameter, were also found. One vein with crystalline native sulfur was found in place, providing evidence for yet more of the complex geological history of this locality. A few veins completely lined with pristine pink-orange dolomite crystals were found, as well as the assemblage of calcite crystal coatings topped by small clusters of dolomite crystals and occasional fluorite cubes (purple, or clear with purple zones) and doubly-terminated quartz crystals.

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Remains of WWII-era ore processing facility at Scotia.
D. Glick photo



Going down the slope to the mining area at Scotia.
D. Glick photo



Hiking past the unusually dry 'Big Pit' at Scotia. *D. Glick photo*

Bedford Cub Scouts Learn about Minerals

by Tim Holtz

On November 4th, NMS member Tim Holtz did a presentation on Rock Collection for Bedford, Pennsylvania, Cub Scout Den #2. Nine scouts and several parents enjoyed explanations and demonstrations of topics such as Identifying Rocks & Minerals, Physical Properties of Minerals, and Collecting Safety and Etiquette. Every scout (and several parents!) participated and went home with participation prizes and at least twelve samples to start their own collections.



Tim chooses who will answer a question about wrapping specimens.
Photo courtesy of Tim Holtz.



Pack Leader Dave Gresh and Cub Scouts enjoy Tim's "Teaching Rocks."
Photo courtesy of Tim Holtz.

2011 Rockhound Rendezvous

by Dick Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Co-Chair
From the November 2010 AFMS Newsletter

Central Oregon is known for petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs. If you like petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs, if you like rock collecting, if you like meeting other interesting rockhounds then join us for this 2011 Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous on May 27th to the 30th. This Rendezvous will be to the Hampton Butte green petrified wood area, the Paulina area for pink, green and blue limb casts and to Glass Butte for a big variety of obsidian. Trip logs will be available to 8 to 10 other nearby sites for agate, thunder eggs, jasper and petrified wood for self guided collecting trips. These trips will include: Maury Mtn. jasper, Bear Creek petrified wood, Eagle Rock dendritic/moss agate, Ochoco thunder eggs, and several other petrified wood and thunder egg sites. (I told you that this is a great rockhounding area.)

This Rendezvous will be lead by Doug True and is hosted by the Northwest and California Federations.

We are going to camp on a centrally located private ranch about 35 miles southeast of Prineville, OR. This is a dry camp with no services available. There will be porta-potties at camp for those who need them. Motels and RV parks are available in Prineville.

Of course we will have daily happy hours, evening campfires, and a couple of potluck dinners. Doug has lined up several speakers: a USGS geologist to talk about recently discovered calderas in the area; Walt Wright to tell us about what we are collecting and a BLM geologist to talk about the geology of the area.

A flyer with Rendezvous details, directions to camp, a schedule of trips and events, and other useful information will be posted on the AFMS, NFMS and CFMS web sites and newsletters in January.

This trip is open to members and guests of all the regional Federations affiliated with the AFMS. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, but no later than May 20, if you plan to attend; e-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. Don't wait – do it now. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west, and all of the Federations of the AFMS, to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Doug True <dtruefossils@yahoo.com>
Richard Pankey <dickpankey@juno.net>

Popular Mineralogy
will return next month

Convention News

by Cathy Patterson, Convention Chair
from the AFMS Newsletter, Dec. 2010/ Jan. 2011

**AFMS / EFMLS Convention
 "Gems Along the Erie Canal"**

Syracuse, New York
 July 7 - 10, 2011

Hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

As I write this, it's November and we're expecting our first light dusting of snow. It seems worlds away from the warmth of July and fun in sunny Syracuse, where a great show and convention await you July 7-10, 2010.



Central New York is a neat area that I bet many of you may have never visited. So we encourage you to build in some extra days to maximize what this area has in store. There are a good number of Herkimer "diamond" dig sites

nearby. Look for the next installment in the AFMS Newsletter in February. The various registration forms will be available via the AFMS website early next year and there is a wealth of information available on the web by doing a web search for "Syracuse".

First, a reminder about making reservations for the host hotel, the Ramada Inn, Buckley Rd. You cannot use the national 1-800 number to get the special room rate. Instead, call 315-457-8670 and tell them you want a room for the AFMS/EFMLS Federation Convention. The rate will be \$99 (plus taxes) which includes a full, hot, breakfast daily and a FREE breakfast Sunday morning for the BEAC "Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters." This is an ideal deal! There are many other hotel choices within the area in all price ranges and camping is available on the fairgrounds. A list of additional hotel/motels will be available via the AFMS website early next year.

With all our Syracuse club has to do to make this event come off the way you expect us to, we have no choice but to rely on you all

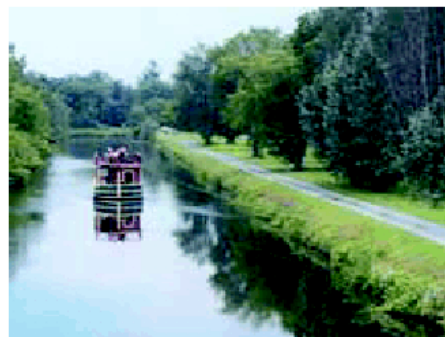


for exhibit cases. Make this your year to shine. Easterners, you need to let the whole world see your good stuff in the light of day. Our target is 100 cases which is huge for the East. With everybody's help we can do it. Think of it as, "If you don't do it; it won't get done." Competitive exhibit forms will be on line soon.

We are planning some interesting field trips for those sparkly Herkimers and the New York fossil the eurypterid. Further north in the state there's a rich pegmatite area. In addition, for those not rockhounding we have an interesting canal boat ride along the newly restored section of the Erie Canal. There's nothing like it in the US. We aim to please! Contact me if you wish.

Make plans now to meet your friends old and new in Syracuse. This will be a week to remember!

Cathy Patterson
 315-638-8817
 315-480-8908
 <cathypatterson@verizon.net>



Along the Erie Canal

Syracuse Conventions / Show Schedule

- AFMS Uniform Rules meeting - July 6
- AFMS Annual Meeting / Cracker Barrel - July 7
- EFMLS Annual Meeting - July 8 (evening)
- AFMS/EFMLS Awards Banquet - July 9
- Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters - July 10

'Spinel's' solution from November NMS Bulletin



Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle at right contains the letters EFILORSTU, and one row or column includes the name of one of the minerals found at Oak Hall quarry. Each block of 9 squares, each row, and each column must contain each of the nine letters exactly once. The solution is on page 8.

T								F
			S	F				
R			T	O		E		
L			E					
	U		F	S				L
	F		R					E
			L					U
	I	O			U		F	
					T			

Mineral Portraits by John Passaneau

Fluorite and Calcite from Yizhango Co., Chenzhou Pref., Hunan Prov. China

This is a 3x6.35x5.5cm specimen with purple fluorite cubes and two generations of calcite crystals.

I picked this up at the Franklin N.J. show this April as I thought it quite photogenic, and better yet, cheap. It's not often that a specimen has two sides that are photogenic, which made it fun to shoot. This was done with the digital photo stacking technique for increasing the depth of field, requiring 14 images to get the results I wanted.



Front

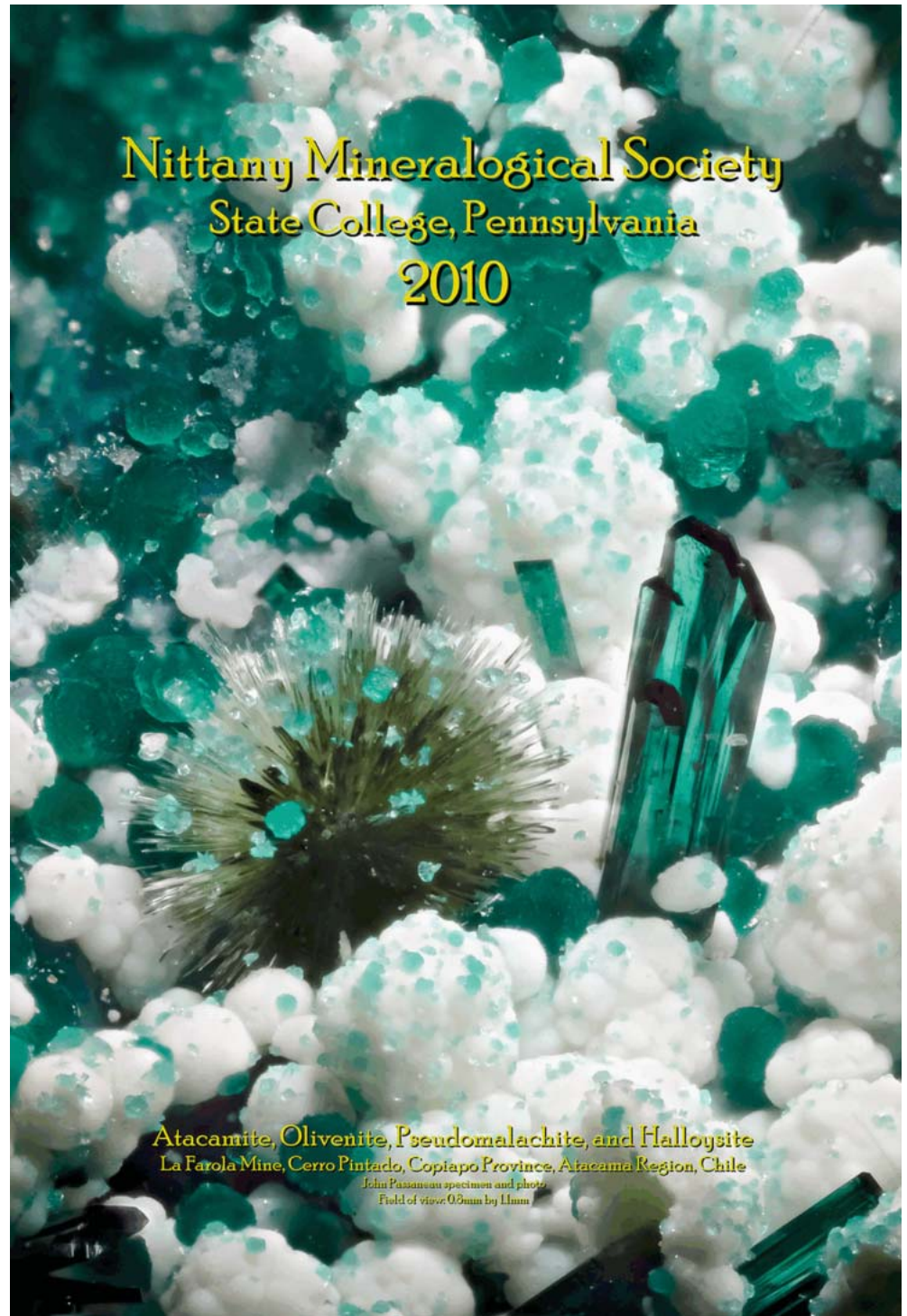


Side

The club's poster for 2010 is a micro-mount of atacamite, olivenite, pseudomalachite and halloysite, from Mina La Farola, Cerro Pintado, Atacama District, Chile. The field of view is 0.8mm by 1.1mm.

I obtained this specimen along from others from a man from Chile who showed up at the Detroit show back in the mid 70s with a suitcase full of this stuff and asked the dealer I was working with if he could put some of it out on a corner of the booth to sell. The dealer said yes and I got first peek and picked out some for micro-mounting. All the crystals were quite small or I would have picked up a bigger specimen for display and in retrospect, I should have done it even though the crystals were small. The photo was also taken with the focus stacking technique requiring 27 images to cover the depth of field. The lens used was a 35mm bellows mount macro lens made just for this kind of photography.

The club will have some copies of this poster for sale at the December 15th Social & Sale.



Some Upcoming Shows and Meetings

Our web site <http://www.nittanymineral.org> has links to more complete lists and details on mineral shows and meetings around the country.

March 26-27, 2011: 33rd Annual Gem-Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, PA.

July 6-10, 2011: EFMLS & AFMS Conventions, Syracuse, NY. Conventions July 6-10, show July 9-10.

2012: EFMLS Sept. 15-16, Harrisburg, PA

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For sale / trade: Equipment & Materials

For sale: Large mineral collection; will sell all or part. Tumble polisher with three 12-lb. and one 6-lb. drum plus grits, polishes and pellets. My phone number is (570) 672-2325. Leave a message if I'm not in.

For sale: Jade in various types & colors; mostly rough, plus some slabs; some fine Coober Pedy opal. Also equipment and jewelry making supplies from jewelry studio and production shop. Contact Daniel G. Reinhold in Mill Hall, PA; phone 570 726-8091 after lunch every day, or e-mail: dreinhold1@comcast.net

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GeoSudoku Solution from page 6

T	O	I	E	U	R	S	L	F
U	E	L	I	S	F	O	R	T
R	S	F	T	O	L	E	U	I
L	R	S	U	E	T	F	I	O
O	U	E	F	I	S	R	T	L
I	F	T	R	L	O	U	S	E
S	T	R	L	F	E	I	O	U
E	I	O	S	T	U	L	F	R
F	L	U	O	R	I	T	E	S

NEW
WEB
SITE:

www.nittanymineral.org

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). Your dues are used for programs and speakers, refreshments, educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. Please fill out a membership form (available on the web site), make checks payable to "Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc." and send them to

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10664

State College, PA 16805

or bring your dues to the next meeting.

We want to welcome you!

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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OTHER CONTACTS

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Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)

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

e-mail: gold@ems.psu.edu

Door Prizes: Mike Zelazny

Facebook: Mike Zelazny e-mail: maz166@psu.edu

The Bulletin Editor will welcome your submissions of articles, photos, drawings, cartoons, etc., on minerals, fossils, collecting, lapidary, and club activity topics of interest to the members. Please contact:

David Glick E-mail: xidg@verizon.net

209 Spring Lea Dr. phone: (814) 237-1094 (h)

State College, PA 16801-7226

Newsletter submissions are appreciated by the first Wednesday of the month. If you include photographs or graphics, please do not embed them in word processor files; send them as separate graphics files (TIF, or good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.