

# Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10664

State College PA 16805

Editor (see page 4):

David C. Glick

August, 2011

Visit our web site: [www.nittanymineral.org](http://www.nittanymineral.org)

August 17th meeting:

## Show, Tell and Share

presented by  
our members and guests

*Our August meeting will be held Wednesday the 17th in the room 114 auditorium of Earth & Engineering Sciences Building on the west side of the Penn State campus in State College, PA. Maps are available through our web site.*

*6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Social hour, refreshments in the lobby*

*7:30 to 8:00 p.m.: announcements, questions, answers;  
door prize drawings*

*about 8:00 p.m.: featured program*

*The event has free admission, free parking, and free refreshments, and is open to all – **Bring your friends and share an enjoyable evening.** -Editor*

The program topic for August will be **Show, Tell and Share**, presented by anyone and everyone who would like to “show and tell” for 5 or 10 minutes or so. This is a great chance to bring in lapidary work, new specimens, 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 on their own are fine, too. 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 door prize specimens are invited.

NMS will provide ice, soft drinks, and water;  
your donated snacks will be welcomed.

Bring a friend!

## Ways to Share at Every Meeting

We encourage everyone to bring an interesting specimen to show to others during the social hour. John Passaneau has been doing this since our Society started, and it has many benefits. If you have extra specimens, bring a few good ones, with labels, to donate for the door prize drawing. Larger amounts can be put out with a “free” sign during the social hour; labels are very desirable for these as well.

*-from the President*

## Junior Rockhounds

The meeting time and place for Junior Rockhounds meetings Fall have not been set; please watch the web site and this Bulletin for news. Juniors and their families and guests are invited to the regular meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> and the picnic on August 21 (see the articles on this page)

Each month’s Junior Rockhounds 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 4). - Editor

## Don’t Miss the NMS Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held **Sunday, August 21**, hosted by the Bingham in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA, a few miles from State College. See the enclosed flyer (p. 5-6 of the PDF), and **RSVP** to Ellen Bingham at 814-234-4532 or [emb22@psu.edu](mailto:emb22@psu.edu). Non-members and prospective members are welcome; please RSVP to Ellen.

The Bingham and NMS will supply the grill, chairs, tables, place settings, utensils, cups, napkins, meats, buns, corn on the cob, butter, ice, iced tea, lemonade, and koolaid.

Please bring any other desired beverages, and (to share) a side dish, or dessert, or chips and dip, etc. - Editor

## Elections in October - Nominations start now

by David Glick, NMS President

All members: please consider volunteering to run for an elected position on the Board of Directors, or volunteering for an appointed position. We need new blood and fresh thinking! Members are invited to attend Board meetings (generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.), to see how we operate. Elected positions are described in the bylaws which are available via the left sidebar of the web site. Those descriptions include some responsibilities which are not currently active; the actual responsibilities of each office are fairly straightforward. The president keeps track of what’s going on, prepares a suggested agenda for the Board meetings and runs the meetings. The vice-president fills in or takes over for the president as needed. The secretary records minutes of the Board meetings, sends out

*Continued on page 2*

**Elections***Continued from page 1*

drafts for comment and records the final versions (the editor is currently a separate person, so the secretary does not have to work on the Bulletin). The treasurer handles the money (payments, bank deposits, withdrawals, etc.) and the financial records, and reports to the Board about finances.

In addition to those specific duties, each elected officer and each standing committee chair is a Board member, responsible for attending Board meetings and participating in decisions concerning the operation of NMS. Because we don't have very many other volunteers, each of the Board members also tends to take on other responsibilities, but those are optional. If you can help with any of this, or want to nominate someone, please notify a Board member or volunteer at the August or September meeting. The Board, acting as the Nominating Committee, would like to finalize its nominations at its September 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, and is required to do so no later than the regular meeting on September 21. ❁

2011 Field Conference of PA Geologists:

## Geology of the Pennsylvanian-Permian Dunkard Basin

From the web site [fcopg.org](http://fcopg.org) :

“The 2011 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists will focus on the Permian-Carboniferous age rocks of the Dunkard Basin in Southwestern Pennsylvania, the northern panhandle of West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio. We will look at the youngest Paleozoic strata of the Appalachians exposed along winding roads built on the steep valley walls of this remote region. We will closely examine the various lithologic features and fossils, touch on dramatic north to south facies change in the basin, and consider the paleoenvironmental and paleoclimatic implications of all of this. We will once again ask the question about the age of Dunkard strata – Pennsylvanian or Permian? Attention will also be given to the unique topographic features of the region – the narrow, sinuous ridge tops and deep valleys shaped by strong headward erosion of streams and extensive landslides.”

The conference is hosted by the Pennsylvania Geological Survey and the Pittsburgh Geological Society. Field trips, held on September 29- October 1, depart from Washington, PA.

One of the pre-conference trips (on Sept. 29, maximum attendance 20) will visit the Gates-Adah kimberlite intrusion and collect samples; it will involve at least one mile of walking in difficult terrain, and more strenuous climbing depending on extra sites visited.

Pre-registration deadline is September 1. Attendance for the main trips on Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 is limited to 160, and special room rates are available for reservation until August 18. See [fcopg.org](http://fcopg.org) for details.

## 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.nittanymineral.org](http://www.nittanymineral.org) or remind Dave Glick to bring a printed copy to a meeting for you to see.

In the June-July issue, EFMLS President discusses the declining availability of sites for field collecting, and the American Land Access Association's efforts to keep them open. Candidates for EFMLS offices are introduced, including Pennsylvanian R.J. Harris for President. The spring Wildacres session is briefly reviewed and the schedule, class list, and registration form for the Sept. 5-11 session are presented; Speaker-In-Residence Steve Chamberlain will present six talks during the week. Some highlights of donations for the Eastern Foundation Fund auction are revealed. The safety article concerns hearing damage and what protection we can use to avoid it. Cathy Patterson's series on the All-American Club Award concerns photographic coverage of club events.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. The June issue mentions the various AFMS contests which were being judged at the time of that writing. The latest prizes for the Endowment Fund Drawing are listed, with good color photos in the web version. The **AFMS Scholarship** winners are listed; for the Eastern Federation, the honorary recipient faculty member is Dr. William L. Blewett, Dept. of Geography & Earth Science, Shippensburg University, **Shippensburg, PA**. The two Shippensburg students selected to be supported by the monetary awards are both majoring in Geoenvironmental Studies; they are Veronica Woodlief and Kevin Eaton. Elery Borow's safety article discusses some general philosophy behind being safe - it's *always* best to follow the safety rules. Clubs' presence on the web and the Club Rockhound of the Year award are discussed. The ALAA article notes that your state's members of congress vote on Federal land access issues, no matter what state the land is in; tell them your position on the issues!

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

## More Fossil Field Trips by Virginia Museum of Natural History

Janet Roetken of the Virginia Museum of Natural History reports some additions to the end of their season of fossil field trips:

- Oct. 8-9: Upper Potomac Boat Trip/ Stratford Hall
- Nov. 11-13/14: Alabama Boat Trip
- Nov. 14-17: North Florida (West)

See their web site at [www.vmnh.net](http://www.vmnh.net) for general information, and if you have questions, please call 276.634.4171.

## New issue of Pennsylvania Geology Online

The Spring 2011 issue of Pennsylvania Geology magazine is available on its web page (accessible via the left sidebar of the NMS web site) on the PA Survey's site. The issue contains articles about the hydrologic cycle, well-illustrated updates to the maps of glacial features in Pennsylvania, new equipment at the Survey (including cathodoluminescence for the SEM, microscopes including those for organic petrography, and a new X-ray diffractometer), the Survey's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Marcellus reports and the extensive Stratigraphic Correlation Chart of Pennsylvania now available online, and the new State Geologist, George Love.

-Editor

Note from the President

## Welcome to Another Season

by David Glick

First, my apologies to anyone who has been trying to reach me by telephone; my service apparently suffered a lightning strike or surge while I was out of town. I returned a week ago and reported it, but because of the Verizon strike it will probably not be fixed until a few more days after you read this. My DSL internet service comes and goes, so any delays in getting this Bulletin on the web site are probably related to that situation.

Your officers aim to do the best we can for the Society and its members, but we have all the usual limitations of human volunteers. Your constructive suggestions are welcomed, as are your efforts in volunteering to help. One recent suggestion is that a mineralogical society should have more programs about minerals. The Board generally agrees, but the list of possible local speakers is rather short and we've gone back to some of them several times for monthly programs, juniors' programs, Junior Education Day programs, and Show programs. We are now looking farther afield for some possibilities. If you could present an interesting program on minerals or another topic within the club's areas of interest, or can suggest someone who could, please let us know.

Elections are coming up, as noted on page 1. If you would like to become more involved as an officer, committee chair or committee member, please contact me or one of the other officers (listed on the final page). Members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Directors to see how we operate.

## Wood's Mine Covered in Min Rec

The July-August 2011 issue (v. 42, no. 4, p.307-334) of The Mineralogical Record includes an article in their Famous Mineral Locality series entitled *Wood's chrome mine, Little Britain Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*, by Wendell E. Wilson. The article covers the mine's history (primarily operated from 1828-1881), the people involved, geology, and descriptions and color photographs of minerals collected there.

Thanks go to the Friends of Mineralogy- PA Chapter Newsletter at [www.rasloto.com/FM/](http://www.rasloto.com/FM/) for pointing out this article.

-Editor



Fluorapatite crystal from the Yates Mine, Otter Lake, Quebec, Canada. *J. Passaneau specimen and photo.*

## 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.

**Aug. 19-21, 2011:** Gem Miner's Jubilee, by Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association. Lebanon Expo & Fairgrounds. [www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com)

**Sept. 17-18, 2011:** 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine, 2801 N 3rd St; Harrisburg, PA. [www.rockandmineral.org/annualshow.htm](http://www.rockandmineral.org/annualshow.htm)

**Sept. 24-25, 2011:** Franklin Gem and Mineral Show and Outdoor Swap and Sell. Franklin School, Franklin, NJ. [www.franklinmineralmuseum.com/activities.htm](http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com/activities.htm)

**Oct. 1, 2011:** Autumn Mineralfest, by PESA. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA, about 8 miles southwest of Allentown. Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. [www.mineralfest.com](http://www.mineralfest.com)

**Oct. 29, 2011:** South Penn Rock Swap, by Franklin County and the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Clubs. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles West of Arendtsville, PA on Rt.234. General Admission: \$1.00; Tables for swappers: \$10.00

**Oct. 29, 2011:** "Ultraviolation" all Fluorescent Mineral Show, by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA., 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Cost \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 years old and younger FREE.

**Nov. 5, 2011:** Gemarama, theme "Out of Africa," by Tuscarora Lapidary Society. At CFS: The School at Church Farm, Exton, PA. [www.lapidary.org/gemarama.htm](http://www.lapidary.org/gemarama.htm)

**Nov. 19-20, 2011:** Gem Miner's Holiday Festival, by Mid-Atlantic Gem & Mineral Association. Lebanon Expo & Fairgrounds. Sat 10-5, Sun. 11-4. [www.gem-show.com](http://www.gem-show.com)

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

## For sale / trade: Equipment & Materials

**For sale:** Rock cutting oil for sale. Food grade clear mineral oil. Up to 10 gallons available. \$12 / gal. Contact Jim Garthe at [jwg10@psu.edu](mailto:jwg10@psu.edu) or call 814-667-2409.

**For sale:** Highland Park lapidary saw, Model E4, 8" diamond blade, mounted on a stand, ready to use. Contact Willard Truckenmiller, phone 814-625-2531 (9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) or e-mail [jowilltruck@aol.com](mailto:jowilltruck@aol.com)

**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](mailto:dreinhold1@comcast.net) ☼

### 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](http://www.nittanymineral.org)), make checks payable to "Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc." and send them to

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P.O. Box 10664

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or bring your dues to the next meeting.

**We want to welcome you!**

### SOCIETY OFFICERS

David Glick (President) 814-237-1094 (h)

e-mail: [xidg@verizon.net](mailto:xidg@verizon.net)

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

e-mail: [raltamur@fscj.edu](mailto:raltamur@fscj.edu)

John Passaneau (Treasurer) 814-231-0969 (h),

e-mail: [jxp16@psu.edu](mailto:jxp16@psu.edu)

Ellen Bingham (Secretary)

e-mail: [emb22@psu.edu](mailto:emb22@psu.edu)

### OTHER CONTACTS

Field Trips: Ed Echler 814-222-2642

e-mail preferred: [eechler@comcast.net](mailto:eechler@comcast.net)

Junior Rockhounds: Dr. Andrew Sicree

814-867-6263 (h) e-mail: [sicree@verizon.net](mailto:sicree@verizon.net)

Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)

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

e-mail: [gold@ems.psu.edu](mailto:gold@ems.psu.edu)

Door Prizes: Mike Zelazny

Facebook: Mike Zelazny e-mail: [maz166@psu.edu](mailto:maz166@psu.edu)

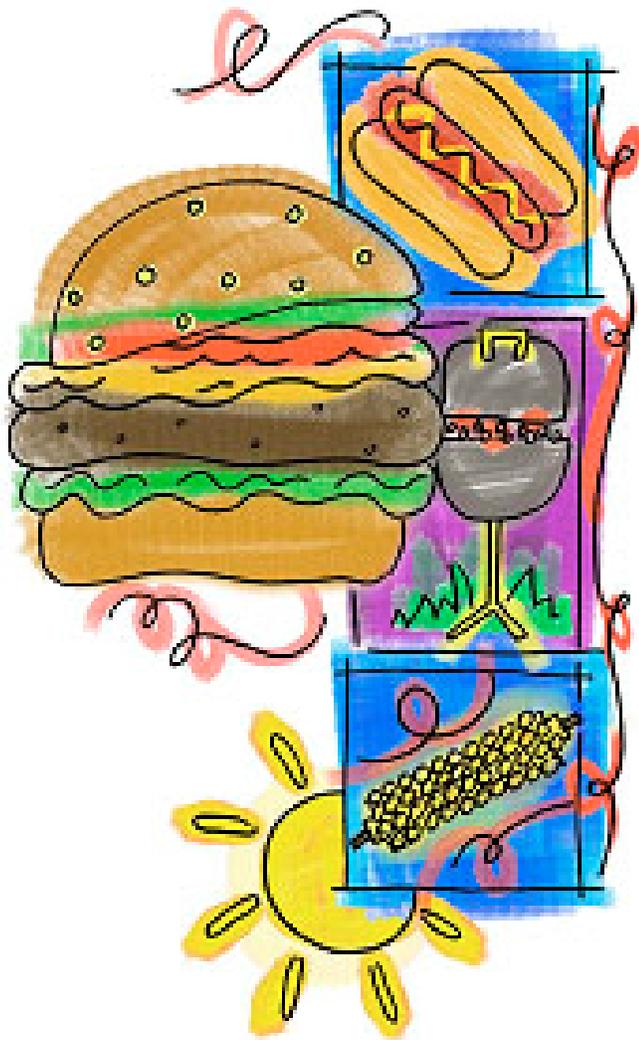
The **Bulletin Editor** will welcome your submissions of articles, photos, drawings, cartoons, etc., on minerals, fossils, collecting, lapidary, and club activity topics of interest to the members. Please contact:

David Glick E-mail: [xidg@verizon.net](mailto: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.



## Nittany Mineralogical Society's 2011 Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Bingham's house  
145 Goddard Circle  
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

RSVP  
814.234.4532 or  
emb22@psu.edu



Whitehall Road heading towards Fairbrook. Just after the only bend in the road, and just after Kocher horse stables: turn RIGHT onto Ramblewood, LEFT onto Brooklawn, RIGHT onto Goddard Circle. If you go as far as Tadpole Road you have missed Ramblewood II.



Streetside parking is acceptable, our block is used to it and we all do it. Whitehall Road on both sides of College/26 is a good avenue for getting around PSU traffic.



**SUPPLIED:**

Grill, chairs, tables, place settings, utensils, cups, napkins, meats, buns, corn on the cob, butter, ice, iced tea, lemonade, and koolaid.



**BRING:** Side dish or dessert, chips and dip, or any other desired beverages.

## NMS PICNIC 2011 (Rain or Shine):



Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM.  
Ellen and Stu Bingham's (just 3 miles from John's place)  
145 Goddard Circle, Pa. Furnace, PA 16865  
RSVP 814.234.4532 or emb22@psu.edu



Whitehall Road heading towards Fairbrook. Just after the only bend in the road, and just after Kocher horse stables: turn RIGHT onto Ramblewood, LEFT onto Brooklawn, RIGHT onto Goddard Circle. If you go as far as Tadpole Road you have missed Ramblewood II.



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