

# **Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin**

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10664

State College PA 16805

Editor (see page 4):

David C. Glick

December, 2012

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

December 19th event:

## **Junior Rockhounds Meet Dec. 19th**

## **Holiday Dinner at Hoss's - Please Sign Up by Dec. 11 -**

by David Glick, NMS President

Our annual December dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. in a private room at Hoss's Steak & Sea House restaurant, 1450 North Atherton St., State College PA 16803. Please RSVP to Dave Glick, stating the number of people in your group, at 814-237-1094 (leave a message) or [xidg@verizon.net](mailto:xidg@verizon.net)

**by Tuesday, December 11** if at all possible (but if it's later, contact Dave anyway). Guests, junior members and their families, non-members and prospective members are welcome; please contact Dave.

NMS will pay for some appetizers for the group. Individuals will then order their dinners from the menu; there will be separate checks which will include 18% gratuity. The menu should be as shown at ( these links are

also on our own web site, [www.nittanymineral.org](http://www.nittanymineral.org)): <https://www.statecollege.com/dining/613/hosss-steak--sea-house/> or <http://www.hosss.com/menu/> (choose the various sections on the right side). Almost all dinner entrees include Hoss's salad bar.

We'll have time before and after dinner to socialize. We won't have a formal meeting or program, but we'll have some door prizes. As always, feel free to bring a mineral specimen, lapidary project, etc. to show to everyone. Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening! \*



## **Tax-Deductible Donations Welcomed**

by David Glick, NMS President

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Nittany Mineralogical Society would welcome your year-end cash donations in any amount, and will provide a receipt. These donations fund our various programs, such as specimens to hand out at our Minerals Junior Education Day and honoraria for invited speakers at our monthly meetings.

Please make checks to 'NMS,' mark as 'donation' and send to:

John Passaneau, NMS Treasurer  
2231 W. Whitehall Rd  
State College PA 16801

\*

Junior Rockhounds will meet at 5:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of December (the 19<sup>th</sup>). We'll meet in room 121 Earth & Engineering Sciences Building; from the parking lot, enter the lobby, take the hallway on the left and go all the way to its end. Juniors and their families are invited to the dinner at 6:00 p.m. that evening; see the article at left (please sign up).

The schedule for January and later months will be announced in this Bulletin and on the web site when it has been decided.

- Editor

## **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. The December issue reports on reorganization of EFMLS history files by the new historian, and calls for nominations for the Each One Teach One and the Club Rockhound awards. President Cheryl Neary also encourages clubs to participate in that award and others such as the All American Club (scrapbook), as well as having a designated Federation Liaison to present Federation news at club meetings. Safety Chair Ellery Borow discusses the inclusion and use of safety features and practices when using lapidary equipment (stemming from a description of a photograph of a craftsman using a homemade grinding wheel with *no* safety features). New rules for meteorite collecting on BLM public lands are presented. The AFMS Endowment Fund raffle is described; prizes are now being accepted for the 2013 raffle. Bulletin contest and web site contest procedures are outlined. Elections of some Regional Vice Presidents (including CPRMC [Harrisburg club] president David Brandon for our own region) are reported.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. The most recent issue was summarized last month.

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

- Editor

## WOMEN ROCK STARS

By Sheryl E. Sims

The Northern Virginia Mineral Club  
from: *The Mineral Newsletter April, 2011*  
(8<sup>th</sup> Place – AFMS Original Adult Articles)

After receiving an invitation by Dr. Richard Tollo, Professor of Biology at George Washington University, to hear his geological field assistant give a presentation, I was so impressed by what she had to say that it inspired me to read more about women geologists. Allison Rubin is a third-year student at George Washington University and spoke brilliantly before a group of geologists, chemists, mineralogists, and everyday people like me. Her intellect, poise, and presentation style led me to assume that she had always had an interest in geology and a vast amount of experience. Much to our surprise, we discovered that she had taken a class that Dr. Tollo taught and became hooked. Despite the fact that I didn't understand very much of what she said because it was clearly over my head as an amateur rock hound, many people in attendance did, and her presentation prompted lots of interesting questions. I am sure, that like the women I'm about to write about, Allison will have a bright future as a geologist.

I found the A to Z of women in geology to be quite enlightening. Many overcame great obstacles to make the contributions that they did to the world of science. I had never heard of these women, nor had I the opportunity to study about them. Hopefully, you will delight in discovering these rock stars of the geological world. I certainly did, for they deserved their rightful place in history as both women and scientists.

**Mary Anning** lived from 1799-1847. It's said that she was "the greatest fossilist the world ever knew."<sup>1</sup> Many people never knew about her contributions to paleontology. Born an English woman, she lived in a man's world, on the southern shores of Great Britain. Her father was an occasional fossil collector and the cliffs of Lyme Regis were filled with incredible fossils from the seas of the Jurassic period. After the death of Mary's father, her mother and siblings survived by using their fossil hunting skills.

A Lt. Col. Thomas Birch helped Mary's family by holding an auction to sell off his own amazing fossil collection<sup>2</sup>. He

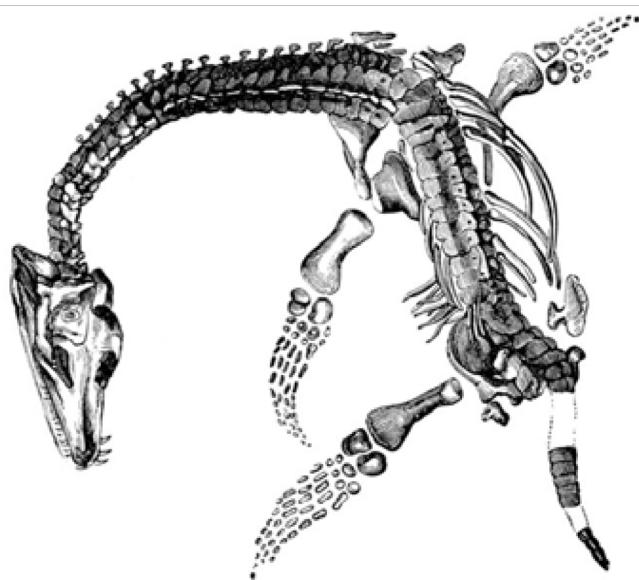
gave the money to her family because he felt sympathetic towards their dire living situation. Mary had a good eye and became an accomplished anatomist. Taking charge of the family fossil business, Mary was credited with discovering the first specimen of Ichthyosaurus around 1809-1811<sup>3</sup>. She was only about 12 years old. Many of her fossils made their way to museums and personal collections, however, she was rarely given credit for discovering them. The scientific community had forgotten Mary and her family. People could not believe that such a young woman could come from an impoverished background, yet develop the skill and knowledge that she possessed.

**Florence Bascom** was another amazing woman. She lived between 1862-1945 and is known as "the first woman geologist in America."<sup>4</sup> She was also the second woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D in geology from the University of Michigan (in 1888). Florence was the first woman elected to the Council of the Geological Society of Washington in 1901, and the first woman officer of the GSA. Born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, she was an expert in crystallography, mineralogy and petrography<sup>5</sup>. She credited her father for her early interest in geology. Amazingly, she was permitted to take graduate classes at Johns Hopkins University in 1889. However, she had to sit behind a screen so that she wouldn't "disrupt" male students<sup>6</sup>. She contributed greatly to the Piedmont geology project and her work is still highly regarded to this day.

**Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer** was a museum curator whose hard work led to the discovery of a prehistoric "fossil fish."<sup>7</sup> The fish was thought to have been extinct to over 70 million years, but was found alive in the South African sea. It was a coelacanth. Surprisingly, her real interest was with birds. She dreamed of

working for a museum and at the age of 24, she did just that. She became a curator. While she never married, she lived to be 97 and was honored at a ceremony held by the South African Mint when they made a commemorative gold coelacanth coin<sup>8</sup>.

**Winifred Goldring** was recognized for her interest in fossils and rocks. She grew up in Albany, New York and worked for the state museum. Prior to that, she taught geology, geography and petrology at Wellesley. In 1939, she was appointed to the position of state



A sketch of "Plesiosaurus macrocephalus", found by Mary Anning. Image courtesy Wikipedia [by William Buckland; public domain - NMS Ed.].

paleontologist and was the first woman to hold that position<sup>9</sup>. She was also the first woman to be elected as president of the Paleontological Society and served as VP of the Geological Society of America.

**Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon** was considered to be “one of the most prolific and original Scottish women of science during the 19th century.”<sup>10</sup> She worked for Karl von Zittle as a paleontologist in Munich and translated his “History of Geology and Paleontology” in 1901. She published numerous scientific papers and worked in the area of Tyrol Dolomites<sup>11</sup>. She received numerous awards and considered her years of work as a scientist to be her happiest.

**Mary Leakey** was one of the world’s most renowned experts in early human fossils. She died in 1996, in Nairobi at the age of 83. She found the 1.75-million-year-old remains of *Homo habilis* at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, and 3.6- million-year-old footprints also in Tanzania<sup>12</sup>. She was married to paleontologist Louis Leakey, whose expertise ranged from Europe to the US. Born in England and raised in France, her father was an artist who took her to see wonderful cave paintings and bone/ stone tools being studied by French pre-historians at that time. At the age of 17, she began working archaeological expeditions. In 1948, Mary found the hominoid skull and facial bones<sup>13</sup>. They were perfectly preserved.

**Dr. Inge Lehmann** made her name by doing important work in the area of seismology<sup>14</sup>. A Danish delegate, she received numerous prestigious scientific awards and worked at the Geodetic Institute until 1953, retiring at the age of 65.

The list of accomplishments by women in the field of geology goes on and on. I’m sure that one day, many of us will recognize the names of women from our own mineral clubs and remember fondly the times when we knew them as children and watched them grow into scholars and geological leaders of our time.

**References**

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4. GSA Today, July 1997, “Rock Stars: A Life of Firsts: Florence Bascom,” Jill S. Schneiderman.
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7. [www.telegraph.co.uk/new/obituaries/1462225/Marjoire-Courtenay-Latimer.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/new/obituaries/1462225/Marjoire-Courtenay-Latimer.html)
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10. [www.scottishgeology.com/geology/scottish\\_geologists/people/dame\\_maria\\_ogilvei\\_gordon](http://www.scottishgeology.com/geology/scottish_geologists/people/dame_maria_ogilvei_gordon)
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13. Ibid.
14. [www.physics.ucla.edu/~cwp/articles/bolt.html](http://www.physics.ucla.edu/~cwp/articles/bolt.html)



Replica of an Australopithecus boisei skull discovered by Mary Leakey in 1959. Image courtesy Wikipedia [by Durova, used under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license - NMS Ed.].

**Geo-Sudoku**

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ACENORTUY, and one row or column spells one name of one of the women in the previous article. Each block of 9 squares, each row, and each column must contain each of the nine letters exactly once. The solution is on page 4.

		T	R		A	C	Y	
	A	E	Y					
R			E	T				
		N			Y		A	C
	R		A	N		T		
	U			R				
A	Y		O				R	
		R		Y				
N		O		A		Y	E	U

## 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 2-3, 2013:** 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, "All That Glitters Is As Gold," by Delaware Mineralogical Society, Delaware Technical & Community College, Stanton, Delaware.  
<http://www.delminsociety.net/marchshow.htm>

**March 23-24, 2013:** Rock & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave., Sayre, PA.  
<http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

**March 23-24, 2013:** Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show by Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. **New Location:** Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 1 Atwood Dr., Northampton, Mass. Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4.  
<http://www.westernmassmineralsociety.com/>

**April 6-7, 2013:** Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society, Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA.  
<http://www.philamineralsociety.org/>  
<http://dvps.essentrix.net/>

**April 18-21, 2013:** Rochester Mineralogical Symposium  
<http://www.rasny.org/MinSymposium/MineralSymp.htmciety.org/>

**May 18-19, 2013:** World of Gems and Minerals - Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmer's Market, Route 61, Leesport, PA.  
<http://www.berksmineralsociety.org/>

**June 1, 2013:** Spring Mineralfest by Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. Saturday only 8:30 - 3:00. [www.mineralfest.com](http://www.mineralfest.com)

**June 1-2, 2013, Eastern Federation** of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Convention, and Suffolk Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show, Plainview, New York. EFMLS Meeting May 31.

**Sept. 20-22, 2013:** American Federation and Southeast Federation Conventions, Jacksonville, Florida.

### Geo-Sudoku Solution

U	N	T	R	O	A	C	Y	E
C	A	E	Y	U	N	O	T	R
R	O	Y	E	T	C	U	N	A
O	T	N	U	E	Y	R	A	C
E	R	C	A	N	O	T	U	Y
Y	U	A	C	R	T	E	O	N
A	Y	U	O	C	E	N	R	T
T	E	R	N	Y	U	A	C	O
N	C	O	T	A	R	Y	E	U

### For sale / trade:

will return after we update the listings.  
Submissions are welcomed.

### 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

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

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

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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: *volunteer needed!*

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.

Visit us at [www.nittanymineral.org](http://www.nittanymineral.org)