

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 10664
State College PA 16805

January, 2014

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see page 8):
David C. Glick

January 15th meeting:

Twenty Years of Nittany Mineralogical Society History

by David C. Glick

Our January meeting will be held Wednesday the 15th 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
about 8:00 p.m.: featured program

The event has free admission, free parking, and free refreshments, and is open to all; parents/guardians must provide supervision of minors. Bring your friends and share an interesting evening.



Our January meeting program will be a look back, with lots of photographs, at the twenty-year history of the Nittany Mineralogical Society since its founding in January, 1994. Reminiscences from the audience will be encouraged. We'll review the various activities the club has enjoyed and the directions in which they have progressed, which may lead to some discussion of what we might do in the future. See page 4 for a review of our history and activities, and a description of the photograph shown above.

ATTENDING THE JANUARY MEETING?

Donations of labeled **door prize specimens** are invited.
Your donated snacks and drinks will be welcomed.
Bring a friend!

Junior Rockhounds Meetings:

Sorry, we still have no news to report.

Minerals Junior Education Day is coming - your help is needed!

Our annual Minerals Junior Education Day is fun and rewarding for students in grades 1-8 and their parents. They will learn about minerals, crystals, gems, and fossils. At this event, kids get an empty egg carton when they check in, then go to a series of stations, where they learn about a different topic at each one. Each station has a fun demonstration, activity or discussion, and the students receive a properly labeled specimen related to the topic, so they gather a whole collection in their egg carton. There is also a sales table with child-friendly prices. Everyone goes through at their own pace and goes to the stations in the order they choose.

At this time, we are checking with our ongoing volunteers as to whether our tentative date of April 5, 2014, is a good one; we'll soon have a firm announcement. We need your help! Wherever and whenever we have it, it's a big job, and we need help in two ways. The first is preparation -- thinking of station topics and the associated handout specimens, which must be available in quantities of 200 or so, and must be relatively affordable. Specimens must also be prepared for the sales table, publicity efforts must be accomplished, and registration of the children attending in each time period must be done to even out the crowd through the day. The second wave of help is needed on the day of the event: setting up tables, teaching materials and specimens; checking in the kids, running the stations, getting lunch for the volunteers, packing up and cleaning up at the end of the day. Please contact Dave Glick (see p. 8) if you can help in any way. Donations of identified specimens for the sales table are also very welcome, as are donations for the handout specimens if you have them in sufficient quantities.

Meeting Programs Coming Up

- Feb. 19: How Do Diamonds Form? - Dr. Duff Gold will reprise NMS's first program, which he presented in February 1994.
- Mar. 19: Geode Night, with the ever-popular Jeff Smith "The Geode Guy." Buy a geode and be the first to ever see inside when it's cracked open for you, or just come and enjoy Jeff's program, with updates from his 2013 visit to the source of the Mexican geodes.
- Apr. 16: Making Mineral & Rock Spheres, by Jim Garthe

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, or remind Dave Glick to bring a printed copy to a meeting for you to see. The January issue begins with the announcement that registration is open as of January 2 for the Spring session (April 7-13) at Wildacres, the retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina . Class descriptions are available in the December EFMLS newsletter and on the EFMLS web site. The Spring Speaker-in-Residence will be Leonard Himes, “well known mineral dealer (Minerals America and Graeber and Himes). Leonard is a native Floridian and retired chemistry teacher. Recognized nationally for excellence in teaching, he coached the US team in the International Chemistry Olympiad (his students did very well!).” The safety article covers foot safety. Andy Celmer briefly reports the history of scientific thought on “Where Do Rocks Come From?” Fran Sick reviews the Eastern Foundation Fund and how donations are put to use.

The **EFMLS Convention** will be held at Plymouth Meeting, PA, outside Philadelphia; the meeting will be Friday, March 28., and the Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair will be on the 29th and 30th. See the article reprinted on page 3 of this Bulletin.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. The contents of the December - January issue were reported last month.

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

- *Editor*

Twenty Years Ago: Organizing NMS

Twenty years ago, in January 1994, our club was founded by several collectors in the State College area. Please plan to attend the January 2014 meeting, when we will look back over 20 years of the Nittany Mineralogical Society (and a bit of the early years and earlier clubs), look forward as to what might be next, and enjoy continued camaraderie with fellow collectors.

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ADILMOPSY, and one row or column spells out the four-year periods of an upcoming famous competition, or the international chemistry competitions which adopted the same name. 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	L	I	Y			
D								S
	L			D		Y	P	I
	D	S	Y	P		M		A
M	O				L	P	Y	D
	A		M	O		I		
	Y					A		
	M							O
			D					

Nittany Mineralogical Society: Our Purposes

Our purposes, as set forth in our Articles of Incorporation, are education and encouragement of interest in the field of mineralogy and the earth sciences.

A more detailed list of objectives is provided in our bylaws:

To educate those interested or potentially interested in the various Earth Sciences.

To provide a means whereby those interested in minerals and rocks can exchange ideas, specimens and experiences.

To foster in the minds of the public an appreciation for minerals, rocks and gems.

To encourage members to donate specimens to schools for use in the study of earth sciences and to make themselves available for programs and demonstrations for other organizations such as Scouts and civic organizations.

To encourage the search for new minerals in Pennsylvania and the recording of all Pennsylvania minerals and mineral locations.

To support museums in their effort to display and preserve mineral and other earth science specimens for public education and appreciation and for scientific research.

To promote the scientific study of minerals, rocks, and Earth Sciences.

To secure the practical conservation of mineral specimens, mineral localities, and sites illustrating earth science concepts.

To provide events for children emphasizing the role of earth sciences in an industrial world.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! 2014 EFMLS CONVENTION NEWS - MARCH 28-30

by Deb Craig, President, Philadelphia Mineralogical Society

2014 marks the first EFMLS Convention to be co-hosted by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society! The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was founded in 1892 and like many Philadelphia Institutions is steeped in history and brotherly love.

The PMS annual show and sale will be held as it has been for 10+ years at The Lu Lu Shriners Masonic Temple at 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. The EFMLS Convention and associated meetings will be held at the Doubletree Hotel—Plymouth Meeting. The Saturday evening banquet and Sunday editor's breakfast will be held at the Doubletree –Plymouth Meeting, Pa. as well. This host property is conveniently located in Plymouth Meeting, PA only 3 miles away from the show venue. Rooms have been set aside at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Philadelphia West, 640 Fountain Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 for any interested parties! Please call the Doubletree at (610) 834-8300 for additional booking information.

PMS has also lined up a few special field trips—one for Friday afternoon to the Philadelphia Wagoner Free Institute of Science and another on Sunday to share geology facts and host mineral hunting in the fascinating Philadelphia Wissahickon – so come to the Philadelphia area and have some active fun!

A Cracker Barrel event will be held on Friday as well at the Doubletree –Plymouth Meeting. This is a great time for people to network and learn what is working for other clubs. The EFMLS annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for a 7:30 pm start on Friday evening.

The show will have lots of showcases available for your use, so, plan on entering a display or two. If you enter as a competitive exhibit, the judges will be anxious to do what they do best – evaluate your display!

There will be seminars, hands-on educational activities and shopping for children and adults with a full hall of vendors at the show venue, Lu-Lu Shriners Masonic Temple at 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

In addition to the show, there is certainly much history and plenty of activity to be enjoyed by all in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area. There are many museums, nature preserves and of course shopping at the famous King

of Prussia Mall—just a short ride from our show activities on the PA. Turnpike! Please plan on spending several days and exploring Philadelphia -- the most historic city in the Nation!

There are a number of PMS members who would be happy and proud to give you some history and travel advice to possibly include personal, local excursions to the Wyeth Museum, Winterthur, Longwood Gardens, etc. Please save the weekend dates of March 28 to March 30th to experience and enjoy these special events!

To begin planning this active, historic opportunity.... Look for the show packets, in early January and plan on reserving a room (or two). And of course, share the information with your club members.

Please see area map below

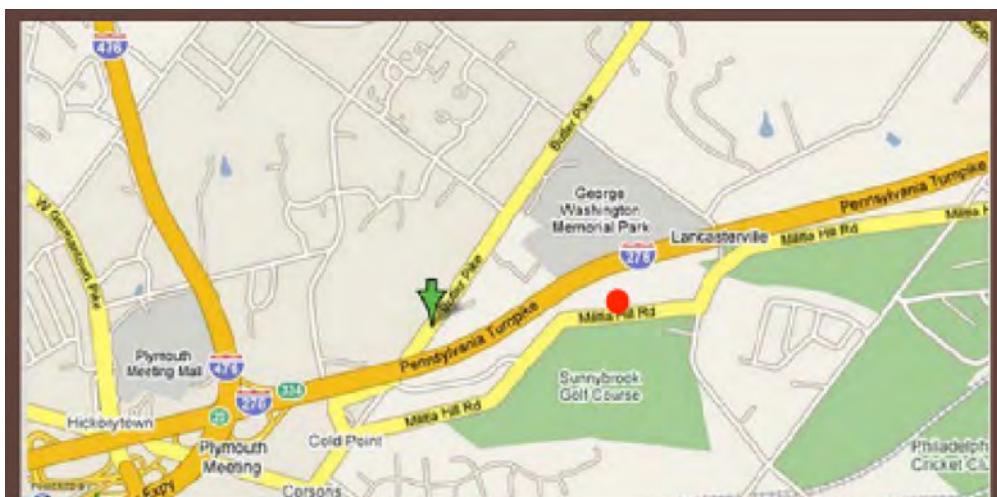
To Lu Lu Shriners Temple
5140 Butler Pike
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

From the PA Turnpike (I-276):

Take Norristown exit 333. After tollbooth follow signs for Plymouth Rd. Turn right at bottom of ramp onto Plymouth Rd. Continue to the traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Butler Pike and proceed 3/10th mile, bearing left where the road forks to a stop sign. Proceed through the stop sign, bearing right, for 5/10th mile, passing beneath the Turnpike, to Lu Lu Shriners Masonic Temple which will be on the right.

From the Blue Route (I-476):

Take exit 20. Follow signs for Plymouth Rd, bearing left. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto Plymouth Rd. Continue to the traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Butler Pike and proceed 3/10th mile, bearing left where the road forks to a stop sign. Proceed through the stop sign, bearing right, for 5/10th mile, passing beneath the Turnpike, to Lu Lu Shriners Temple which will be on the right.



The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society looks forward to hosting you at the 2014 E F M L S Convention and Show. Mark your calendar now for March 28-30, 2014.

Twenty Years of Nittany Mineralogical Society History

by David C. Glick



For many years, we met in the main gallery of Penn State's Mineral Museum. Here, Karen deHaas speaks on "Appraising Gems" in April 2000.

A. Sicree photo

Founding

Our society was founded in 1994. Some of our members had been part of an earlier club in town with a lapidary emphasis, the Nittany Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Others had participated in mineral clubs elsewhere and were looking for the same activities in State College. The Penn State Mineral Museum provided a nucleus, and a Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter symposium held here in 1993 brought some of the key players together. The society was founded in January 1994, and chose the third Wednesday of the month for its meeting night.

Monthly Meetings

The first regular meeting was held on February 16, 1994, in Steidle Building on Penn State's University Park campus in State College. The program was "How Do Diamonds Form?" by Professor of Geology Dr. David P. "Duff" Gold; Duff will revisit that topic for our February 2014 program. The second program was by another Penn State professor who's still a club member; Dr. Frank Aplan spoke on "Ghost Mines and Mining Camps of the Old West" illustrated with many slides from his extensive travels. Next, the April 1994 meeting featured Kurt Nassau, author of several books on color in gemstones, speaking on "Gems: Science, Synthesis, Beauty and Deception." These meetings set the pattern for presentations by our members, Penn State professors, and invited guests from the world of mineral collecting and mineral science. A complete list of programs through the years is available on our web site. Topics have included mineral collecting and mineralogy, gems, lapidary, geology, and history of the mineral industries, particularly in Pennsylvania.



A 1997 field trip to Gettysburg (Teeter) Quarry; leftto right: Shirley Fonda, Jeanne Dague, Andrew Sicree, 2nd field trip chair Carl Rogers, 1st field trip chair Joe Dague, Mike Sheasley. *Photo courtesy of A. Sicree*

Field Trips

Field trips to collect minerals and fossils were one of the reasons for creating the society. The first field trip was held in April 1994, just two months after the first meeting. Field trip Chair Joe Dague took the club to Eastern Industries' Dale's Ridge Quarry west of Lewisburg. Oak Hall Quarry (now owned by Hanson Aggregates) near State College has been very cooperative through the years and has been a popular destination. Likewise in recent years Dolomite on calcite, Oak Hall Quarry. *J. Passaneau photo*



At NationalLimestone's Middleburg Quarry in 2008, Tim Holtz and Field Trip Chair Ed Echler collect purple fluorite. *D. Glick photo*



Jeff Scovil speaks about mineral specimen photography at the 1996 Centennial Symposium. *A. Sicree photo*

the good specimens found at National Limestone's Mount Pleasant Mills location have made it popular, and the cooperation of owner Eric Stahl has made multiple visits possible.

Mineral Symposia

Among the major projects in the club's first decade were a series of seven (not counting the Friends of Mineralogy -PA Chapter symposium before NMS formed) symposia

for mineral collectors, generally featuring a full day of talks by experts, an auction, a banquet with keynote speaker, and a full day field trip. These attracted speakers and attendees from well outside the local area, providing many opportunities for learning more about the world of mineral collecting.

Official Status

We incorporated as a non-profit in Pennsylvania prior to our first Nittany Gem and Mineral Show in 2006, and in early 2008 we received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, retroactive to our incorporation in 2006.

Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows

We held a series of four Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows, which included dealers, children's activities, a speaker program, field trips, and more. We have not held the show since 2009 because of the cost and difficulty in scheduling local venues.



2006 Show at Mt. Nittany Middle School. *R. Altamura photo*



In the educational & outreach area of the 2008 show, Bob Altamura demonstrates gem polishing. *A. Sicree photo*



An evening auction of donated mineral specimens was always a popular symposium event and a good fundraiser for the Society. Jeanne Dague (left) shows the specimen while Andrew Sicree (right) conducts the auction in 1999. *Photo courtesy of A. Sicree*



Silent Auction at the 2002 Symposium held at Sterling Hill, NJ.
A. Sicree photo.

Minerals Junior Education Day

Our longest-term project, other than monthly meetings, has been our annual Minerals Junior Education Day for children and their parents. Children go to about eight different stations, each with a different topic on minerals, gems, fossils, or earth science. Each station includes a demonstration, display or activity and a discussion with trained personnel, and each provides a labeled specimen related to the topic. Students



At the 2000 Minerals Junior Education Day, Shirley Fonda explains invertebrate fossils to kids and parents. *D. Glick photo*



In 2007, Daniel Bontempo showed a variety of lapidary techniques to the kids. *A. Sicree photo*



GPAA's gold panning is always a huge attraction at Minerals Junior Education Day. *D. Glick photo, 2007*

receive an empty egg carton when they enter, and then build a collection of specimens in the egg carton as they visit the various stations.



Mike Sheasley presenting "Taste and Smell" station at the 2000 Junior Ed. Day. *A. Sicree photo*

Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day

Since 2008, NMS has participated in Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day (with variations in the name), a family-oriented event which brings together local outdoors groups to raise awareness and teach the public.



Above: At the 2011 Spring Creek Day, Bob Altamura and John Passaneau discussed "Minerals versus Rocks" and Steve Poterala demonstrated gemstone faceting. Below: 2009, Iron Ore Minerals and Ironmaking. *D. Glick photos*



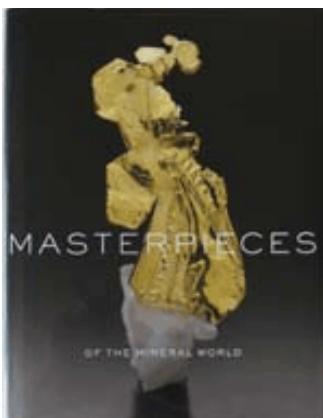
Display Cases at EMS Museum

Another outreach effort organized by Bob Altamura has been a display case set up by NMS at Penn State's Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum on the ground floor of Deike Building. Displays are changed once or twice a year: more photographs are available on our web site under "Outreach."

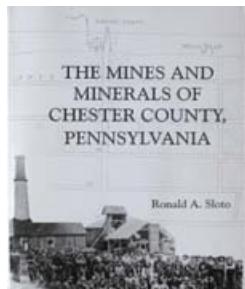
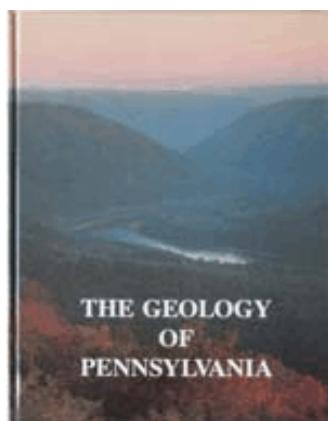


2007 display of the State College Oolite was shown at the Gem & Mineral Show and later at the EMS Museum.

Book Donations



NMS has undertaken a program to donate books in our field to local public and school libraries. At this time we have several copies of Robert Beard's *Rockhounding Pennsylvania and New Jersey* (2013) ready to distribute.



T-shirts

We have NMS T-shirts in several colors and sizes, printed both front and back with designs created by Bob Altamura. See the web site for more information, or see Bob at the January meeting.



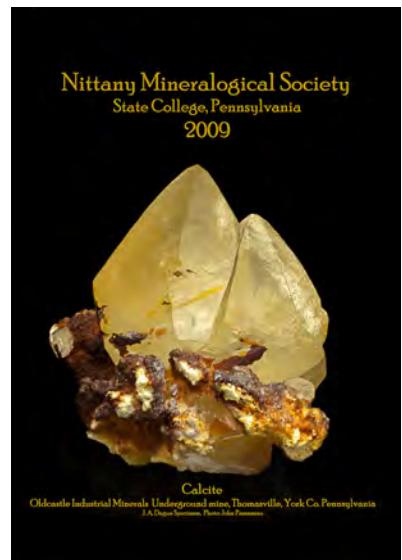
Mineral crystal sets



We have been selling sets of 18 colorful mineral specimens, most of which show crystal faces, a step above many sets available in tourist shops and elsewhere on the market. Many are popular gem minerals, and all have their source localities noted. A 28-page booklet by John S. White, former curator-in-charge of the Smithsonian's famous mineral and gem collection, is included. John White had assembled the specimens and written drafts of the booklet; NMS purchased the entire stock and completed the assembly of the project. The specimens are not labeled, but have painted color-coded dots; the descriptions in the booklet can be used to identify the specimens, then those identifications can be checked against the answers key sealed inside the booklet's back cover.

Posters

Since 2008, John Passaneau has created an annual mineral portrait poster for NMS to sell. They are produced using digital photo stacking and printer optimization techniques to yield exceptional results. See the web site under "merchandise" for a showcase.



And more...

Your editor has run out of room to list our activities and interesting aspects of our history... if your favorite has been left out, please come to the January 15th meeting and tell everyone about it!



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 1-2, 2014: Delaware Mineralogical Society Show, Delaware Technical & Community College, Stanton, Delaware. Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 11 - 5.
<http://www.delminsociety.net/marchshow.htm>

March 22-23, 2014: Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show. Athens Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 211 Herrick Ave., Sayre, PA. Dealers, exhibits, kids activities, demonstrations, fossil ID, special exhibit and silent auction by Carnegie Museum, fossil exhibit by Paleontological Research Institute. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4.
<http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

March 29-30, 2014: EFMLS Convention and Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.
<http://pms.moonfruit.com/#/mineral-show/4527879809>

April 18-19, 2014: First Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show for the non-profit **North Museum of Natural History and Science**. At Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd (off Manheim Pike), Lancaster, PA. Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5. **VENDORS WANTED:** \$50.00 per table. Contact Alison Mallin, 717-358-7188 <amallin@northmuseum.org> for more information and to reserve a space.

May 17-18, 2014: World of Gems and Minerals, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61, Leesport PA.

June 7, 2014: Spring Mineralfest - Mineral Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Ass'n. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

FOR SALE: 2 Homemade Lapidary saws for sale - 14" and 18". Both come with working motors, arbor, belt, pulley, rock clamp/carriage, and a blade. Both are mucked-out and ready to move. Both could use a little TLC. For more info contact Mike Zelazny at fabricatefilm@yahoo.com

Geo-Sudoku Solution

P	S	A	L	I	Y	O	D	M
D	I	Y	O	M	P	L	A	S
O	L	M	S	D	A	Y	P	I
L	D	S	Y	P	I	M	O	A
M	O	I	A	S	L	P	Y	D
Y	A	P	M	O	D	I	S	L
S	Y	D	I	L	O	A	M	P
A	M	L	P	Y	S	D	I	O
I	P	O	D	A	M	S	L	Y

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 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)
e-mail: xidg@verizon.net

Dr. Bob Altamura (Vice-President) 814-234-5011 (h)
e-mail: raltamura@comcast.net

Ellen Bingham (Secretary and Acting Treasurer)
e-mail: emb22@psu.edu

John Passaneau (Treasurer, on leave) 814-231-0969 (h),
e-mail: jxp16@psu.edu

OTHER CONTACTS

Field Trips: Ed Echler 814-222-2642
e-mail preferred: eechler@comcast.net

Junior Rockhounds: Dr. Andrew Sicree

814-867-6263 (h) e-mail: 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

Door Prizes: *volunteer needed!*

Refreshments: *volunteer needed!*

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.