

# **Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin**

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

March, 2016

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

Editor (see page 4):  
David C. Glick

**March 16th meeting:**

## **Preliminary characterization of residual deposits on Joseph Priestley's laboratory apparatus**

by

**Dr. Barry Scheetz  
Penn State**

*Our March meeting will be held Wednesday the 16th in room 114 (larger auditorium) of Earth & Engineering Sciences Building on the west side of the Penn State campus in State College, PA. Maps are available on our web site.*

*6:45 to 7:45p.m.: Social hour, refreshments in the lobby*

*7:45 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!*

Joseph Priestley is best known as the discoverer of oxygen. But he was much more than that. He experimented with electricity in the 1760's before Benjamin Franklin, a colleague and friend. He delineated the process of photosynthesis. He invented modern-day soda. He even invented the rubber eraser. In addition to all of these accomplishments, he was a theologian. One with such controversial ideas that his neighbors burned down his home in England and he was forced into exile in Pennsylvania, not more than 90 miles from here in Northumberland. Upon arrival in Pennsylvania, he continued his scientific activities up until his death in 1804. After his death, his family simply discarded his laboratory apparatus in the back yard of the family home, where it lay for nearly 200 years until the State Museum excavated the property in 1989. The question foremost in the mind of the State Archaeologist at the time, Steve Werfel, was 'just exactly what were Priestley's last experiments' and could an examination of the remnants of the laboratory apparatus answer this question.

### **ATTENDING THE MARCH MEETING?**

Donations of **a few high quality, labeled door prize specimens** are invited.

Your donated snacks and drinks will be welcomed.

Bring a friend!

**Our annual event for kids:**

## **Minerals Junior Education Day - April 9**

**Registration will start next week for time slots starting 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 9**

**Spread the word!**

Our annual Minerals Junior Education Day is fun and rewarding for kids and parents who attend, as well as NMS volunteers who present the event. The event will be held at the same location as last year:

Central Pa. Institute of Science & Technology  
540 North Harrison Rd  
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

Students in grades 1-8 and their parents are invited to come and learn about minerals, crystals, gemstones, and fossils. At this event, kids get an empty egg carton when they check in, then go to a series of stations, each concerning a different aspect of mineral properties, rocks or fossils. They learn about the topic from a demonstration or discussion, and receive a properly labeled specimen or educational item related to the topic, so they gather a whole collection in their egg carton. \$5 admission per child covers the costs. We're planning the stations right now, and will include a sales table at kid-friendly prices. Stations may include: gem cutting & polishing (lapidary), gold panning, fluorescence with ultraviolet light, light and gems, meteorites, vertebrate fossils, invertebrate (shell) fossils, and others; stay tuned!

**For updates, directions and maps, see [www.nittanymineral.org](http://www.nittanymineral.org)**

## **JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS Monthly Meetings for Kids**

We are actively working on setting up monthly Junior Rockhounds meetings at 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons in State College this season. If we're able to do this, they will start some time after April 9. Please watch our web site for announcements, or e-mail Dave Glick <[xidg@verizon.net](mailto:xidg@verizon.net)> to be put on an e-mail list to receive news directly. ✨

## 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 March issue starts with Cheryl Neary, Auction Chair, encouraging donations to the annual auction to raise money for the Eastern Foundation Fund. Monetary donations to the Fund are also welcome. President Larry Heath discusses moving our communications to the digital realm. The safety article (from AFMS) is on our hands and how to keep them safe.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods. The March issue opens with Endowment Fund news; tickets for the raffle are available at \$5.00 a piece or \$20.00 for five; the newsletter continues to show color photographs and descriptions for raffle items donated recently. The drawing will be held at the convention in Oregon in July. President Matt Charsky provides a list of answers to “What does the AFMS do?” - scholarships, convention, land access, juniors programs, bulletin and web site competitions, awards, an upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and more. 2015 AFMS scholarship recipients are listed; those in Eastern Federation territory (chosen by honorary awardee Dr. Scott Hippensteel, UNC Charlotte) are Richard Eustace Aiken Small, MS student, studying foraminifera in water treatment, and Amanda Stone, PhD student, studying physical geology education. The safety article is on our hands and how to keep them safe. 2016 Program Competition is discussed. The AFMS Convention will be Thursday July 28, followed by the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society Show in Albany, Oregon, on the 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. The Midwest Federation is having a poster contest for kids in grades 1-8 throughout the US on the theme “Amazing Agates”; entry details are provided.

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

## STUDENTS! SATURDAY, APRIL 2!

**EMEX - Earth and Mineral Sciences Exposition at Penn State**  
from the web site  
<http://www.ems.psu.edu/emex>

The Earth and Mineral Sciences EXposition (EMEX) is the College’s annual student-run Open House. All high school students, current Penn State students, and transfer students who are considering an EMS major are invited to attend. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are available to answer questions about EMS majors, curriculum requirements, career opportunities, student life, and special features of the College. We will also have College tours, demonstrations, and speakers. Please join us to learn how EMS can broaden your horizons and expand your opportunities for success in school, in your career, and in life. This Saturday event is FREE and open to the public.

The web site <http://www.ems.psu.edu/emex> includes contact information, an online registration form, flier, tentative schedule, map, and video. The event will be held Saturday, April 2, 2016, at The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Deike Building, University Park Campus, 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters DIGNRSTUY. One row or column includes what university recipients of AFMS scholarships are doing. As usual, if you’ve read this issue, you’ve seen the word. 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.

						R	
	U	I			Y	S	N
			T				U
		T	N	D		R	Y
		G	Y			D	N
		N		T			G
S	T		D			N	G
			G	N		U	Y
	G	Y			S		

## NMS Meeting Door Prizes

We plan to have these specimens in our door prize drawings at upcoming meetings. Photographs by Robert Altamura.



Wulfenite crystals on matrix, Chihuahua, Mexico. Approximately 3.75" across.



Calcite crystal group, York Building Supply Quarry, York, Pennsylvania. Approximately 2.5" across.



Dolomite, fluorite, calcite, and quartz (Lemont "diamond"), Oak Hall Quarry, Oak Hall, PA. Approx. 3.5" across.

## Spring Show Season!

Visit these shows presented by our neighboring clubs

### *Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.*

47th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Athens Township Vol. Fire Hall

211 Herrick Avenue, Sayre, PA

**March 19, 2016 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**March 20, 2016 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

website: [chehannarocks.com](http://chehannarocks.com)

Special Exhibit & Silent Auction by Carnegie Museum

Exhibit by Paleontological Research Institute

Fossil ID by Bill Klose

Demonstrations of Cabochon Making

Geode Cutting and Faceting

Fluorescent Mineral Programs by UV-Bob

Saturday Programs at 11:00 – 1:00 – 3:00

Sunday Programs 12:00 & 2:00

Exhibits of Minerals, Gems, & Indian Artifacts  
Dealers with Minerals, Gemstones, Fossils, Jewelry  
and Hobby Supplies Mini-mine for Kids  
Door Prizes Food Available on Premises

*Donation Requested:*

*Adults \$3.00 \* Students \$1.00 \* Under 8 Free*

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

### ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

38th Annual Gem- Mineral & Jewelry Show

Hamilton Heights Elementary School,

1589 Johnson Road, Chambersburg, PA

**March 19 & 20, 2016:**

About 17 dealers with over 50 tables.

Lots of variety!

Food concession – Faceting demos - Spin Wheel

Micromounters showing their specimens.

PA Geological Survey display and handouts.

## Classifieds

Ads may be submitted to the Editor (see p. 4)

**FOR SALE: Microscope & Accessories, Mineral Specimens, Crystal Models.**

----- UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2016 -----

See the listing at [www.nittanymineral.org/beall.pdf](http://www.nittanymineral.org/beall.pdf) which has been updated to reflect the current list of specimens available. Those already sold since the 2014 listing have been removed, and some additional specimens and other items have been added. The Meiji binocular microscope set up for photomicrography with trinocular head, zoom, photo eyepieces, iris diaphragm to control depth of field, two-arm fiber optic illuminator with focusing ends, anti-vibration table, etc., is still available. Contact Frank & Gail Beall, 724-789-7290.

## 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. See [www.mineralevents.com](http://www.mineralevents.com) for more.

**March 19-20, 2016:** Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, by Franklin County R&M Club. Hamilton Heights Elem. School, 1589 Johnson Rd., Chambersburg PA (see page 3)

**March 19-20, 2016:** Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, by Che-Hanna R&M Club. Athens Twp Fire Hall, Sayre, PA. <http://www.chehannarocks.com> (see page 3)

**March 19-20, 2016:** Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, by Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Soc. of Montgomery County, Maryland. Gaithersburg, MD. <http://www.glimsmc.com/show.shtml>

**April 2-3, 2016:** Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair, by Phila. Min. Soc. & Del. Valley Paleo. Soc. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting PA 19462 Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

**April 14-17, 2016:** Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY. <http://www.rasny.org/minsymp/>

**April 16-17, 2016:** North Rocks! North Museum Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster PA. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.northmuseum.org/events/>

**May 14, 2016:** South Penn Spring Rock Swap & Sale, by CPRMC & Franklin Cty RMC. South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, PA 17307. General admissions \$1.00/person.

**May 14-15, 2016:** World of Gems & Minerals Show, by Berks Mineral. Soc. Leesport Farmers Mkt, Rt 61, Leesport.

**May 21, 2016:** The Earth Science Show & Sale, by Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Cty. Fairless Hills, PA., 9 - 4

**June 4, 2016:** Spring Mineralfest, Macungie, PA Sat. only, 8:30 - 3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

**June 17-18, 2016:** Lancaster Cty. Club Show, Quarryville, PA

## Geo-Sudoku Solution

T	Y	S	I	U	N	G	R	D
D	U	I	R	G	Y	S	T	N
G	N	R	T	S	D	Y	I	U
U	I	T	N	D	G	R	S	Y
R	S	G	Y	I	U	D	N	T
Y	D	N	S	T	R	I	U	G
S	T	U	D	Y	I	N	G	R
I	R	D	G	N	T	U	Y	S
N	G	Y	U	R	S	T	D	I

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

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

Stuart Bingham (Treasurer)  
 E-mail: [sebing145@comcast.net](mailto:sebing145@comcast.net)

### OTHER CONTACTS

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Junior Rockhounds: Dr. Andrew Sicree  
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Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)

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Door Prizes: Dr. Bob Altamura (see above)

Facebook & Publicity: John Dziak: [jjd264@psu.edu](mailto:jjd264@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:

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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 (TIF, or good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.