

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

May, 2017

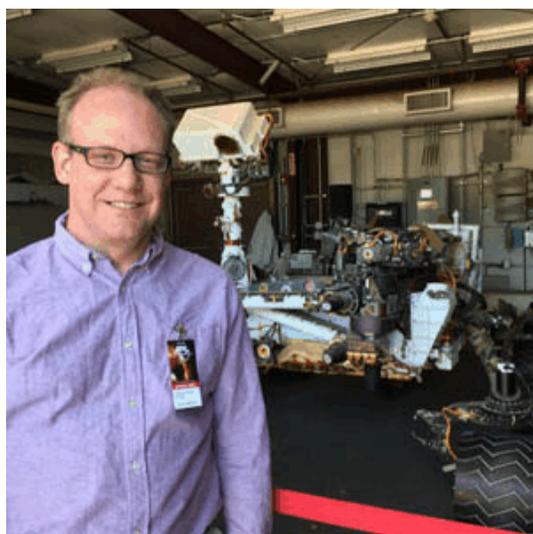
Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):
David C. Glick

May 17th meeting:

The Curiosity Rover at Gale Crater, insights from a New Member of the Mars Science Laboratory Mission

by
Dr. Christopher House
Professor of Geosciences, Penn State



Our May meeting will be held Wednesday the 17th in room 114 (larger auditorium), 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 7:45 p.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!
-Editor

The Curiosity Rover is the most advanced rover to ever explore another world. Were conditions ever favorable for microbial life on Mars? That's what the Curiosity Mars rover team is determined to discover. Christopher House, one of six new scientists tapped for the NASA team, will give us a guided tour of the surface of Mars and explain how the Curiosity science team is studying the past habitability of Gale Crater. ❄



ATTENDING THE MAY MEETING?

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

Bring a friend!

WE ARE BACK IN E.E.S. BUILDING

SUMMER AND FALL

We will not have any meetings or Bulletins in June or July. The next meeting will be August 16th; the program is expected to be Show & Tell by the members. We don't have any field trips scheduled at this time; members who are on the field trip e-mail list will be notified if any are scheduled.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

For paid members, a printed membership directory is enclosed with this Bulletin. Its contents are only for the private use of the listed members. For those who receive the Bulletin electronically, a printed copy will be mailed within a week.

MYSTERIES OF THE MUSEUM

A segment of the Travel Channel's Mysteries of the Museum program, featuring the Penn State Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery, and its Director Dr. Russ Graham, has been recorded and is expected to air this fall. Watch for news.

FEDERATION NEWS

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 now being distributed electronically; a link is available on our web site www.nittanymineral.org. The May issue's President's note reports on upcoming conventions; registration forms for the October 20-22 2017 EFMLS Convention in Bristol, Connecticut (see page 3), are on the web site <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/conventionp.htm>>. In 2018, The Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club in Raleigh, North Carolina, will host a combined AFMS-EFMLS Convention, October 6-8. The safety article has important recommendations for safety if someone goes out collecting alone. The Wildacres Workshops can be "a lovely mini-vacation." The fall session is September 4-10, the speaker in residence will be Dr. Tim Morgan, and class schedule and registration form are provided. Nominations for Club Rockhound of the Year and each One Teach One Awards are invited. The June issue is also available, and it also publicizes Wildacres and conventions. President Dave Korzendorfer encourages everyone to see the EFMLS and AFMS web sites and the helpful news and information which they contain (links are on our web site, www.nittanymineral.org). An article from the Northwest Federation describes how a junior rock club succeeds due to adult club members.

The **AFMS Newsletter** is available by the same methods; the April issue contained some of the 2016 competition's award-winning articles (written in 2015). One is about blue slag from iron smelting operations in Michigan, which brings to mind the blue-green slag from many iron smelters in our own area. In the May issue, President Ron Carman relates stories from the Rocky Mountain Federation show in Albuquerque, including collecting at the Blanchard Mine: "we found a large barite boulder containing cavities with crystals of fluorite..." Another is a well illustrated review of shadow and iris agates and lapidary techniques used on them. As usual, the complete calendar of all regional federation conventions is presented (on page 6). The AFMS Show & Convention will take place **June 9-11 in Ventura, California: "Ventura Rocks the Nation!"** In the June issue, the President discusses Federation conventions and their logistics. The Juniors article shows the 20 activity badges in the Future Rockhounds of America program, and how they are supported by the

AFMS Endowment Fund (donations are tax-deductible). A safety article covers paying attention to messages on safety. A related article describes the danger, mostly in western states, from M-44 spring-loaded "cyanide bombs" buried in the ground to kill coyotes. Pet dogs and curious rockhounding humans are at risk too! If you're going where these devices might have been put in place, please read the article to learn about them.

The Federations encourage everyone to see the web sites for the complete Newsletters. There's a lot there!

-Editor

Ten years ago in NMS

In May 2007 we were preparing for our second annual Nittany Gem and Mineral Show, to be held June 30 and July 1. In addition to many dealers and educational activities, we had a consignment sales table and a big silent auction. The Oolitic chert study group assembled a display case showing local collecting locations and polished gems; the display was later shown in the Penn State Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum. In a related matter, the Board was working on the application for federal 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status, which was granted retroactively.

-Editor

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ACEGHILNR. One row or column spells the location of an upcoming convention. As usual, if you've read this issue, you've seen the word, or a variation of it. 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	C		I	G
N				L			H	
A			H		I	N		
	N		L			I		
		L	E		G		N	
H		I	C		N			
						A		
E	H				R	G		
			G		H		R	N

Door Prize

This specimen, pyrite with quartz from the Leonard Mine, Butte, Montana, will be among the door prizes at our May 17th meeting. The specimen is 4 inches long; the drusy quartz on quartz crystals shown in the detail photo is 0.4" across. It is from the uncataloged collection of our late member John Passaneau. *D. Glick photos*



EFMLS Convention 2017

by *Dave Korzendorfer, EFMLS President*
from EFMLS News 64:4, Feb. 2017

Mark your calendar for the 2017 EFMLS Annual Convention — the weekend of October 20 - 22, in Bristol, Connecticut. Mid-October is typically peak time for fall color, which can be spectacular. We'll have lots of activities planned for those who come, including road logs for those who want to drive and experience quaint New England, with the reds and golds of fall foliage juxtaposed with rock walls, winding roads, old cemeteries, and white churches.

Connecticut is a small state in size, but is very rich in mineral diversity. The pegmatites in the central valley region produced many fine gem-quality beryl and tourmaline crystals, as well as most other pegmatite suite minerals. Thanks to being at the site of multiple plate collisions, Connecticut is composed of all three rock types, and minerals occur in a wide variety of geologic terrains. The metamorphic terrains produced abundant garnet (the state mineral), kyanite, and other metamorphic minerals. World-class Bristol chalcocite crystals were formed at the contact of sedimentary rocks and volcanic extrusive rocks. The theme of the show is "Connecticut Rocks," with a focus on the mineralogy of the state, and there will be a Saturday talk on the Geologic History of Connecticut. Yale's Peabody Museum and the Connecticut Mining Museum are short drives from the show location, and the Harvard Museum is only a 2-hour drive away.

We hope to see you all at the convention. ❄

Stories professors told me:

1. Pride

by
Charles E. Miller, Jr.
State College, PA

Gene Williams, former Professor of Geology at Penn State, taught stratigraphy, sedimentology, sedimentary petrology, and the history and foundation of science. He is probably best known for his work on Pennsylvania's bituminous coals. He told the following story to the writer.

One day he was doing fieldwork. While he was working on one hill, some distance away on the next hill was another geologist doing other fieldwork. Both were in view of each other and both knew the other was there. The other geologist was much older than Gene. As the day wore on, each caught the other watching his counterpart. Soon, a rivalry developed between the two. No older geologist was going to out work a younger one, and vice versa. This resulted in a stalemate. Neither geologist stopped for a break, including lunch. Each was going to keep up with the other. Such was their pride. ❄

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 for more.

May 13, 2017: Annual Earth Science Show and Sale, by Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County. Christ United Methodist Church, 501 Wistar Road; Fairless Hills, PA 19030

May 20-21, 2017: 49th Annual "World of Gems and Minerals" Rock, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, PA 19533.

May 20-21, 2017: Annual Spring outdoor Rock Swap & Sale, by North Jersey Min. Soc. Sterling Hill Mining Museum, 30 Plant St., Ogdensburg NJ 07439. Sat-Sun 9-5. <http://nojms.webs.com/north-jersey-swap-n-sell>

May 20-21, 2017: Spring Show, by Cape Atlantic Rockhounds. 2641 Cologne Ave., Mays Landing NJ (between Routes 322 & 30). Sat & Sun 9-5. Free parking and admission. www.capeatlanticrockhounds.com/

June 1-3, 2017: Mineral & Fossil Garage Sale, by Tom Smith at 10 Roger Ave., Shippensburg PA 17257. Th 5-8, Fri 9-1 and 5-8, Sat 9-1. tsmith1012@comcast.net

June 3, 2017: Spring Mineralfest by PESA, Macungie, PA 18062. Sat. only 8:30 -3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

June 16-17, 2017: Annual Show by Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club, Solanco Fairgrounds, Hoffman Bldg; 172 South Lime St., Quarryville PA 17566; Fri. 12-8, Sat. 10-5.

Sept. 16-17, 2017: 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, by Central Penn. Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine Center, 2801 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA
Coupon, directions, more on web site:
http://www.rockandmineral.org/annual_show.htm

Sept. 23-24, 2017: Franklin - Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show, by FOMS & Franklin Min'1 Museum. Littell Commun. Ctr, 10 Munsonhurst Rd #12 Franklin NJ 07416

October 7, 2017: Autumn Mineralfest by PESA, Macungie, PA 18062. Sat. only 8:30 -3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

October 21-22, 2017: EFMLS Convention & Show, Bristol, Connecticut. EFMLS meeting Friday October 20.

Nov. 4-5, 2017: Gemarama, by Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Theme: Agates Everywhere. Greater Phila. Expo Center, Hall D, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456
<http://www.lapidary.org/GEMARAMA/Gemarama.html>

Geo-Sudoku Solution

L	E	H	N	A	C	R	I	G
N	I	G	R	L	E	C	H	A
A	C	R	H	G	I	N	E	L
C	N	E	L	H	A	I	G	R
R	A	L	E	I	G	H	N	C
H	G	I	C	R	N	L	A	E
G	R	N	I	E	L	A	C	H
E	H	C	A	N	R	G	L	I
I	L	A	G	C	H	E	R	N

Visit us at 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), 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

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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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State College, PA 16801-7226

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.