Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

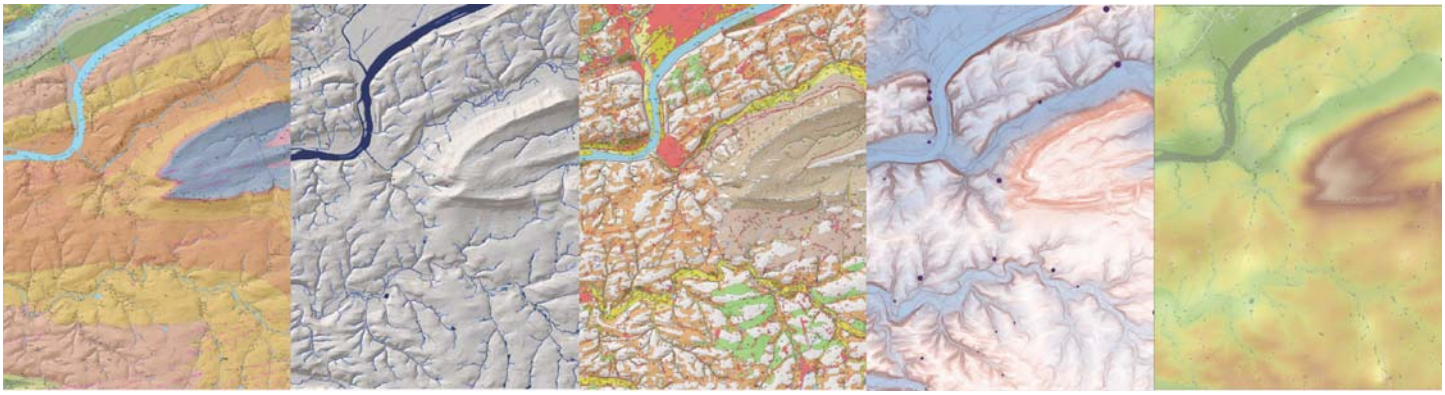
Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc., meeting in State College / Boalsburg, Pennsylvania
Contact information on back page

March, 2026 **Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org** *Editor (see back page): David C. Glick*

March 18th meeting:
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

Modern Tools, Field Geology, and New Insights from the Catawissa Quadrangle

by Al Guiseppe, P.G.,
Pennsylvania Bureau of Geological Survey



Our March meeting will be held Wednesday the 18th in Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 East Pine St., Boalsburg, PA 16827. Maps can be found on our web site.

7:00 to 7:45 p.m.: Social "hour," refreshments
7:45 to 8:00 p.m.: Announcements, door prizes, sales
about 8:00 p.m.: featured program

The event has free admission and free parking (lot just east of Fire Hall along East Pine St.), and is open to all; ***parents/guardians must provide supervision of minors.*** ***Bring your friends and share an interesting evening.***

The Pennsylvania Geological Survey is conducting integrated geologic mapping in the Catawissa quadrangle of Columbia County, Pennsylvania to better understand the region's bedrock, surface materials, and landscape processes. What began as a traditional bedrock mapping project expanded into a collaborative effort that combines surficial geology, lidar-derived hydrography, top-of-bedrock modeling, and landslide investigations.

This presentation will highlight how modern GIS tools and field observations work together to reveal new details about rock exposures, stream systems, and geomorphology. Examples will show how mapping different datasets simultaneously improves geologic interpretation and helps identify locations where bedrock units are exposed at the surface.

The talk will provide an accessible overview of how the geological survey use both fieldwork and digital methods to better understand Pennsylvania's geology and support future research and resource exploration.

Junior Rockhounds Weekly Meetings
See page 2

Minerals Junior Education Day
Our annual event for kids & parents
Volunteers Needed!
Saturday, March 28
See page 3

ATTENDING THE MARCH MEETING?
Donations of **one or two high quality, labeled door prize specimens** are invited.
Larger quantities can go in a giveaway box.
Bring a friend!

Bellefonte Art Museum hosts

From the Ground Up: Centre County Works

Art works from the Penn State Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery's Steidle collection portraying industry and mining are on display at the Bellefonte Art Museum, 133 North Allegheny Street, Bellefonte PA 16823. This exhibit specifically depicts activity in the history of Centre County. The Bellefonte Art Museum is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 12:00-4:30 p.m., with a reception during those hours on the first Sunday of the month. The Museum and the reception have free admission, and this exhibit will run until April 26.

https://bellefontemuseum.org/events/2025/from-the-ground-up-centre-county-works

Above and below: past Junior Rockhounds meetings

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS MEETINGS

Most Wednesdays through May 13

6:00 - 6:40 p.m.

by Dr. Andrew Sicree,
Junior Rockhounds Chair

You are invited! Please tell your friends too! Junior Rockhounds meetings start Wednesday. Feb. 25th, 2026: 6:00 - 6:40 p.m, at Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 E Pine St, Boalsburg PA 16827.

Meeting dates -Wednesdays, 6:00-6:40 p.m. :

February 25th,

March 4th, 18th, 25th,

April 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th,

May 6th, 13th.

These are FREE meetings for kids, best for students in 3rd - 8th grades, WITH their parents.
The meetings have a different topic each week, such as minerals, fossils, gemstones, geology, and dinosaurs. They include fun hands-on activities and discussions with an expert.

Parents stay with their children and may get a lot out of the meetings too!

Free collection organizer box to each student.

You don't have to be a member to attend; please come out and see what it's all about.

See http://www.nittanymineral.org/juniors.htm for updates and more information including weather cancellations.

Sponsored by Junior Museum and
Nittany Mineralogical Society.

Contact Dr. Andrew Sicree at 814-867-6263 or aas132@psu.edu for info.

Minerals Junior Education Day Set for March 28, 2026

Please spread the word to kids and parents that it's time to register! We are seeking volunteers to help at the stations. Donations of minerals, books, etc., to sell at child-friendly prices at the sales table are also welcomed - please make arrangements in advance, so that we can get them organized and priced. See the web page at <www.nittanymineral.org/juniored.htm>; The flyer below can be downloaded from there. Contact: Dave Glick: xidg@verizon.net or 814-810-2116. - *Editor*

Nittany Mineralogical Society and partners present…

KIDS in grades 1 – 8! ***Get cool***

MINERALS, FOSSILS, & ROCKS

and learn more about nature on

Saturday, March 28, 2026,

Minerals Junior Education Day

Stations being planned include:

Gold Panning
Caves & Karst
Lapidary – Making Gemstones
Native Americans used Rocks
Fossil shells (invertebrates)
Fossil bones (vertebrates)
Fluorescence (glow in the dark)
Gemstones
Iron Ore & Iron Furnaces
Minerals make Rocks

Go to the stations at your own pace; allow an hour and a half or more to see them all.

When: **Saturday March 28, 2026**

Where: Central PA Institute of Science and Technology
540 North Harrison Road
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
(Just off I-99 North, Exit 80)

Cost: Only $6 per child ; **Parents come along for free**

Admission includes specimens to take home. Plus we have a sales table at low prices – bring cash!

Please **register by**

Tuesday March 24.

Pick your starting time:

9:00 a.m., 9:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, Noon, 12:30 p.m., or 1:00 p.m.

To **reserve** your starting time, using the website to **register and pay by PayPal is the best way:**

www.nittanymineral.org

Otherwise, see the website and reserve your time by sending email to nittanymineral.org@gmail.com

After receiving confirmation of your time slot, you can pay $6 per student at the event.

No checks or cash through the mail.

ALSO: Junior Rockhounds meetings **March 18 and 25; April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13.** ***Monthly Society meetings*** **for adults & everyone March 18, April 15.**

Get more details, updates, video, and info on our Society at

www.nittanymineral.org

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 encourage our readers to read their monthly newsletters, which are linked from the left sidebar of our web site, <http://www.nittanymineral.org>.

The AFMS newsletter (now digital only) for the month of March is available at <https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>. President Ronna Watkins reports on her early-season activities (see part of that at right). The Club Rockhound of the Year program is described and several awardees are introduced. Jim Brace Thompson writes on "Maximizing Online Tools to Promote Your Club." For the AFMS Endowment Fund, tickets are available ($5 or 5/$20, to raise funds for AFMS special projects) for prize drawings. Ellery Borow's article on "Approaches to Safety" is reprinted on page 6 of this Bulletin.

The Eastern Federation's <https://efmls.org/> March Newsletter includes president Andrew "Rockhound's" column, reprinted at right. It is reported that the May 11-17 **Wildacres Workshop** session still has a few openings (see page 5 of this Bulletin), and the registration form is provided. - *Editor*

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters BDINRSTUY. One row or column includes the subject of an exhibit. If you've read this issue, you've seen 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.

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

EFMLS President's Message

from
Andrew Rockhound

EFMLS News v. 73 no. 3
March 2026

Moving into March with the snow of the northeast melting and rockhounds are starting to get out digging, everything is well at the EFMLS, so this month I will keep it short. We thank all the clubs that have sent in their dues and insurance renewals, and want to give a friendly reminder to the clubs that haven't, to please get them in. The 2026 EFMLS BEAC is being finalized, and qualified entries are on schedule for delivery to the AFMS BEAC judges. We thank all the judges who volunteered, and appreciate their contribution to the clubs who participated! As temporary BEAC chair, I can say the process was smooth and easy to administer, and we are looking for someone to take on the roll for next year. Please reach out of you might be interested, you will have support and it is a valuable way to contribute to the EFMLS community! We have plenty of other ways you can contribute as well, so let me know if you'd like to help.

I'll keep my promise to keep it short and leave you with one last reminder – Wildacres still has a few openings left for the 2026 retreat, so register now before it's full! Stay safe and I'll see you out there!

Thoughts from Ronna Watkins, AFMS President

AFMS Newsletter, v. 79 no.2 March 2026

I hope this March message reaches you happily in the middle of your hobby, whether it be polishing a cabochon, tumbling rock, wire-wrapping, classifying minerals, carving or casting...There is always something to do with rocks and always something new to learn or a technique to perfect.

I hope the last rock you cut had unbelievable beauty inside. I hope the last wire you wrapped went just how you saw it. I hope you found the mineral that completes your greatest aspiration!

30 Years Ago in NMS

by David Glick

In March, 1996, the two-year-old Nittany Mineralogical Society and its members were busy! Newsletter Editor Andrew Sicree kept us up-to-date. The March meeting presentation was 'A Priceless Hole in the Ground' by Mr. Richard Hauck, president of the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. The announcement read in part,

> Mr. Hauck will describe efforts to save the Sterling Hill Mine. The mine was purchased after the new Jersey Zinc Company ceased operations, and the mine buildings have been turned into a museum to preserve the history of mining in this once-great mining district.

The newsletter reported on the February meeting:

> "Fossil Insects" was the topic of last month's presentation by Dr. Bruce McPheron during the February meeting of the Society. McPheron, a professor in Penn State's Department of Entomology, gave an informative talk about the history of insects, when they first appeared on the Earth, and how their orders have changed - or not changed as the case may be - down through the ages. Thank you, Dr. McPheron, for helping our Society continue its long series of top-quality talks.

Dr. Barry Scheetz invited collectors to provide samples for The Jasper Project:

> The assistance of mineral collectors is needed a scientific study of jasper, flint, and chert. Scientists at The Pennsylvania State University are beginning a study of jasper occurrences up and down the Eastern Coast of the United States. The purpose of this study is to identify sources of jasper and other related rocks used by American Indians to make tools.

Frank Kowalczyk was organizing the second annual Minerals & Materials Junior Education Day and "rounding up volunteers to help with this very important project. It was described as:

> Minerals and Materials Junior Education Day will expose grade school students to the wonders of the earth and materials sciences. At educational stations set up in the Museum students will learn about rocks, metals, minerals, and fossils first-hand. They will be encouraged to begin a rock and mineral collection. During the event, students will have the chance to collect mineral and rock specimens, fossils, and man-made materials at tables set up in the Museum. ❄

Jacolyn Campbell teaching wire-wrapping.

Wildacres Update

Helen Serras-Herman
EFMLS Wildacres Committee Chairman
from **EFMLS News v. 73 no. 3, March 2026**

Our EFMLS Wildacres Workshop will be held on May 11-17, 2026. We are almost full but have about 10 more seats available. We would love it if you can join us. Please fill out the updated Registration form in this newsletter and send it in along with your check to EFMLS Wildacres Committee Director Tim Morgan, at 8057 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. For classes and Speaker-in-Residence information please visit our website at www.efmls.org/wildacres. We look forward to seeing you!

Please note the updated address above and on the registration form. This change is for this year only. If you've already sent your form in, you don't need to send a new one.

From EFMLS News v. 73 no. 2, February 2026

Our EFMLS Wildacres 2026 Speaker-in-Residence, renowned photographer, journalist and author Robert Weldon, just sent the titles of his six talks. The first three concentrate on photography, but they are all unique and different.

1. Images of a Lifetime - Robert Weldon's Life in Gem Pictures
2. Practical Workshop in How to Photograph Mineral Crystals, Gems, & Jewelry, Including with a Phone
3. How AI is Affecting Gem and Jewelry Photography: The Future of the Art
4. Museum of London's Treasures from the Cheapside Hoard
5. Gemstone Virtuosos: The Drehers and Their Extraordinary Gem Carvings & The Story of Idar Oberstein
6. In the Footsteps of Peter W. Rainier: Journey to the Chivor Emerald Mine

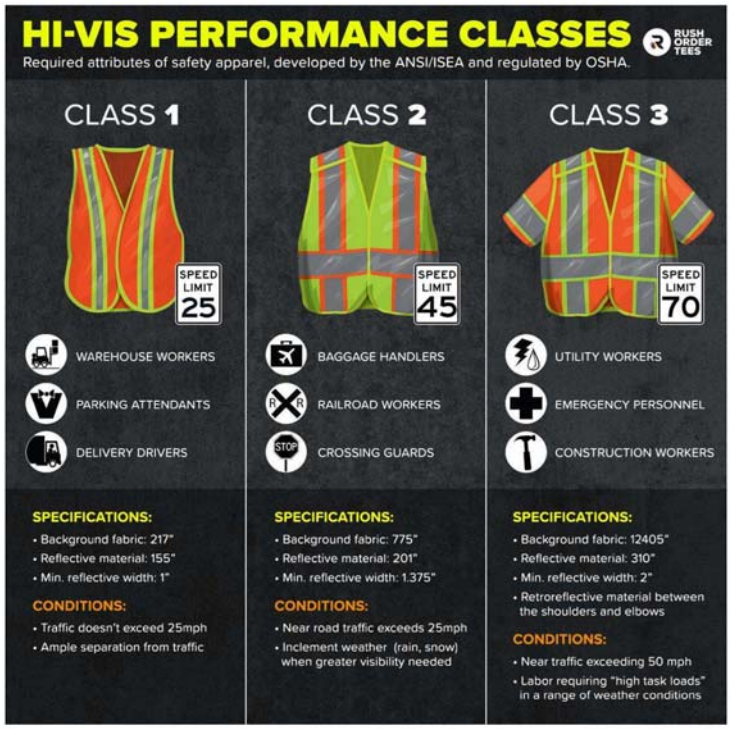
Approaches to Safety

— Safety Matters by Ellery Borow

from **EFMLS News v. 73 no. 3, March 2026**

Perhaps you have seen, while traveling America's highways and byways, a big, red, octagon sign featuring the word "STOP" across its face. The operator of the vehicle approaching such a sign is required to bring their vehicle to a stop, assess the traffic situation, and properly enter the intersection controlled by the stop sign. That is the law, to bring the vehicle to a stop. There are legal repercussions if one does not stop. This is the first approach to safety — make it a law.

A second approach to safety is a reaction to circumstances. Say there is a roadway intersection of a primary and two secondary roads controlled by stop signs on the secondary roads. I know of one such instance where the primary road crests a hill and is at a curve in the road as well. Needless to say, there were numerous accidents at that intersection. After many years of accidents at the intersection a traffic control light (red, yellow and green) was installed with a resulting reduction in accidents at the intersection.



The last approach to safety is predictive. This is where no accident has been had as yet but as a just-in-case a safety rule is devised and applied. In such instances a town, state, governing board, or committee uses advisors to create a set of rules, laws or guidelines for such things as of use of a facility by the public. Such instances might be at public buildings, parks, playgrounds, public pools, or other public places.

The above instances were utilized as a common frame of reference. Most of our regular safety interactions are a mixture of approaches. Look both ways before crossing the road. Use pot holders to carry a hot cooking pot. Use the handrails when climbing stairs.

ln rock and mineral club activities there are also those mixed approaches to the rules. Public access building codes require emergency exits and stairs to be kept clear in case of an emergency at our shows. Yet part of that hall might have a raised area to use as a stage. If the stage is used for displays or dealers' tables, and the public has access to that stage, what measures are used to keep attendees from tripping and falling off the stage? What rules apply? Does that hall have rules for use of the stage area? Are fall prevention barriers needed, or recommended, or not addressed? Do club members just need to be aware of the risks and take their own precautions?

All through the rock and mineral clubs in our shared hobbies there are rules, guidelines, safety procedures, and commonsense areas of safety concern. Some of those rules and guidelines may be unique to their club, their meeting hall, their club lapidary shop, their show facility, their field trips and so on. Some rules are law, some are practical guidelines, some common-sense wisdom, and some, while sounding reasonable may need to be, at times, questioned.

What is a club to do in a world not necessarily obsessed with safety but surely concerned with being safe? A club might have a dedicated safety person for their show, their lapidary shop, and their field trip but most clubs appear for example to have the field trip chair also be their field trip safety chair, and so on. However, there is much more to a club than shows, workshops and field trips — there are also meetings, special programs, picnics, swaps and more. In addition, clubs also have their official keeper of the club's first responder kit with a basic emergency medical supply. Associated with that

responsibility comes training and familiarity with use of those supplies. The shear amount of safety information needed for a club may make it difficult to have a safety chairperson to oversee each area where there are matters of safety. In smaller clubs it may be difficult to find any person to chair a separate safety committee let alone have dedicated people for specific concerns.

There are many ways to address concerns of safety in clubs. A club may offer regular talks by professionals devoted to some aspect of safety such that safety becomes a shared club member responsibility. A club may offer to their members a yearly class for first responder/aid knowledge. Club members may be asked (or assigned) a safety topic and required to give a short talk on the matter before the club. Safety articles might be included in periodic editions of club newsletters. A club may offer a brief safety refresher talk before heading into each dig. A club may require safety lessons to each person using the club lapidary or jewelry shop. As a club sets up for a show the volunteers may be offered a safety talk of specific show activities (such as being cautious with folding table leg pinch points). A club may offer its own safety guideline book to new members. A club may decide to encode safety requirements into its by-laws (such as for age limits (if any) for participation in club field trips).

As each and every club has its own uniqueness — there are often times when its uniqueness in safety matters need be addressed. When there are questions or concerns there is a plethora of sources of reliable safety information on the internet and most libraries. Please take matters of safety as a serious matter and use discretion. Sharpening a pencil in a pencil sharpener probably does not need safety glasses in order to keep one's eyes safe. Sharpening a rock chisel on a metal grinding machine is very different matter, one where safety glasses are a good idea to be worn.

Just like rules of the road, safety matters concern us all. Please be safe — your safety matters.

A Pennsylvania Minerals Gallery

With gratitude to Rob Lavinsky for making so many images available through Creative Commons license on the WWW. The descriptions are his, from Wikimedia.org. *-Editor*

Wavellite. Locality: National Limestone Co. Quarry, Lime Ridge, Mount Pleasant Mills, Perry Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, USA.
Size: 10.5 x 7.0 x 3.2 cm
Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0
http://www.mindat.org/photo-147474.html

Brucite. Wood's Chrome Mine (Wood's Mine), Texas, Little Britain Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA.
Size: miniature, 4.2 x 2.9 x 2.8 cm

A sharply crystallized rosette, or spherical aggregate rather, of translucent brucite from this important East Coast locality. It was almost certainly collected during the mid to late 1800s heyday here. Fine miniatures of this material, that actually have some aesthetics, are VERY rare and hard to get a hold of. I have had bigger pieces, pricier pieces, bigger crystals, but never such a nice showy specimen for the size.

Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0
http://www.irocks.com/db_pics/pics/mrz153a.jpg

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.
https://efmls.org/events/
See other show calendar links on our web site.

Mar. 21-22, 2026: Franklin County R&M Club Show, Rec Center, 235 S Second St, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Mar. 28-29, 2026: Gem & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox PA 18854. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. http://chehannarocks.com/show.html

Mar. 28-29, 2026: Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20). www.phillyrocks.org

Mar. 28, 2026: NMS Minerals Junior Education Day, see p. 3 and <www.nittanymineral.org/juniored.htm>

May 2-3, 2026: 57th Annual World of Gems & Minerals: Gemstones, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral & Fossil Show, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, 312 Gernant's Church Rd. Leesport PA 19533. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. berksmineralsociety.com

May 11-17, 2026: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, Little Switzerland NC. www.efmls.org/wildacres and p. 4

May 15-17, 2026: New England Mineral Conference, Newry, Maine. Students get free registration. www.nemineral.org/annual-conference/

Oct 18-20, 2026: EFMLS Convention & Kanawha Rock & Gem Club annual show, Charleston, West Virginia.

Nov. 14-15, 2026: Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Symposium & Field Trip, West Chester, PA.

Geo-Sudoku Solution

D	N	B	T	Y	I	R	U	S
R	Y	I	S	B	U	D	N	T
U	T	S	R	D	N	Y	B	I
T	S	U	I	N	Y	B	D	R
N	D	Y	B	S	R	I	T	U
I	B	R	U	T	D	S	Y	N
S	U	T	Y	R	B	N	I	D
Y	R	D	N	I	T	U	S	B
B	**I**	**N**	**D**	**U**	**S**	**T**	**R**	**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 $25 (regular member), $10 (student rate), $18 (seniors), $35 (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 and form to the next meeting.

We want to welcome you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Come to our meetings on the third Wednesday of the month - see page 1

mailing address:
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c/o S. Bingham, Treasurer
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Penna. Furnace PA 16865

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e-mail: dpgold33@comcast.net, gold@ems.psu.edu
Door Prizes: Dr. Bob Altamura (see above)
Facebook: John Dziak: dziakj1@gmail.com
Publicity:

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
425 Armagast Rd. phone: 814-810-2116 (h)
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9762

Newsletter submissions are appreciated by the first Wednesday of the month. Photographs or graphics are encouraged; please send them as separate graphics files (high quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.

Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org