

All are invited to attend the monthly meeting of the
Nittany Mineralogical Society
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Roadside Geology
Part 1: Pennsylvania

by Dr. Charles E. Miller, Jr.
Retired Geologist

Our September meeting will be held Wednesday the 19th 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.

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Junior Rockhounds meeting in room 121

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Social hour, refreshments in the lobby

*7:30 to 8:00 p.m.: announcements, questions, answers;
door prize drawings*

about 8:00 p.m.: featured program

*The event has free admission, free parking, and free refreshments, and is open to all –
Bring your friends and share an interesting evening.*

In 1972 Mountain Press Publishing Company began the popular Roadside Geology book series. Professional geologists write and edit the books for people who are not geologists but who would like to learn something more about roadcuts, vistas, and exposures along roads. This talk is an extension of that theme and begins locally and expands outward from State College. Each locality is discussed briefly without technical jargon so as to keep with the theme of providing information for non-geologists. Seeing these localities through the eyes of a geologist will be informative and, hopefully, interesting.

Local and nearby geology provides a wide variety of features, including solution along bedding planes, cross sections of sinkholes, folds, faults, spheroidal weathering, tidal-flat deposits, bedding conducive to slope failure, primary sedimentary features (ripples, mudcracks, intraformational conglomerate, abandoned stream channels, cross bedding), sandstone used in the Hubble Telescope's mirror, an excellent fossil locality, the largest fossil sponges in Pennsylvania, cave formations on a bridge, periglacial features, mass wasting, and much more. Of special note will be stops at the Giant Food Store on Atherton Street, the clay courts at the Penn State Tennis Center, and some building stones at University Park.

Beyond State College, our traverse in Pennsylvania expands to Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Bellwood, Water Street, Spring Mills, Castanea, Williamsport, Renovo, Lewistown, Towanda, Swatara Gap, Chambersburg, Carlisle, Gettysburg, and Pittsburgh. Localities beyond Pennsylvania will be covered in future talks.



Thrust faulted anticline; Charlie Hill road-cut; Rt. 22; ~ 8 mi. north of Huntingdon; between Huntingdon and Water Street, PA; 2-1999. (1985, Central Pennsylvania Geology Revisited, Guidebook for 50th Annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists, pp. 192-203) (Image by the author).

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