

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

Editor (see back page):

March, 2022

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

David C. Glick

March 16th meeting, SPECIAL TIME 6:00 p.m.
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL:

GEODE NIGHT!

by
Jeff Smith

Our March meeting will be held Wednesday the 16th in Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 East Pine St., Boalsburg, PA 16827. Maps can be found on our web site.

6:00 to 7:10 p.m.: Purchasing & opening geodes

about 7:15 p.m.: featured **program on Mexican geodes**

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.

We hope you will join us in person, but if you can't, we plan to record the presentation for later posting on our web site. We don't expect to Zoom this one in real time. Watch the web site for any updates.

Our location is now out of the CDC 'high' community level of COVID, but only a few miles from areas that are still 'high.' We remain cautious and support those who choose to mask.

-Editor



If yours turns out to be solid, you can pick another at no charge.

At about 7:15 p.m., after the geode cracking has been completed, Jeff Smith will present a program on these geodes. He and his family have visited the geode mine in Mexico, and he has slides, good stories and video of the long trip out to the mine and then going underground to mine a few geodes themselves. It's fascinating! The program is family friendly and very interesting!

The Las Choyas geode deposit was described in Jeff's extensive, illustrated article in the March-April 2010 issue of Rocks & Minerals magazine. This NMS Bulletin (available on our web site, www.nittanymineral.org) carried articles about geodes in the December 2011 and January 2012 issues, and Rock & Gem magazine's February 2012 issue included "The Hector Carrillo Family: the human story behind Mexican lapidary treasures," by Brad Cross.

Here's Jeff's report on a 2013 visit:

In 2008, Gem Center suspended underground mining activities due to moderate earthquake activity centered in Chihuahua. At that time, they had been mining between 90 and 125 feet beneath the desert floor. In order to maintain production, Gem Center purchased excavation equipment to begin strip mining along a portion of the deposit outcrop. This decision has been successful and productive. To date, an area approximately 300 feet long has been mined along strike of the deposit, and the resulting high wall measures about 20 feet. The excavation has also exposed the classic room and pillar mining technique that has been employed underground since the 1960's.



NMS is very happy to welcome back Jeff Smith, "the Geode Guy," to present Geode Night to our club. Starting at 6:00 p.m., various sizes of whole geodes will be available for purchase at \$5 and up. After you buy, Jeff will crack them open for you and you'll be the first person ever to see the crystals inside.

continued on page 2

GEODE NIGHT! Continued from page 1

In the summer of 2013, since seismic activity had subsided, two new shafts were sunk down dip to probe the depths of the deposit. The geode-bearing zone was encountered at 150 feet and 210 feet below the surface. The two shafts have been connected with a tunnel and they have been mining along strike. Potentially, the geode zone could be mined down to 600 feet below the desert floor, where the regional water table would be encountered.

Like my last few trips, I was lowered down the 150-foot shaft like a bucket into a well, as I carried my hammer and camera equipment. I was able to shoot videotape and still photos of mining activity, and oh yes, I mined my own geode, which contained amethyst!

**NMS 2022 Spring Schedule**

April 20: Landscapes and Geology of PA, by Dr. Bob Altamura

May 18: Caves, by Dr. Will White, to be followed by a tour of Lincoln Caverns on Sunday May 22

EFMLS:

April 4: Zoom presentation on Tucson Show trip by Bill Stephens. Watch NMS web site for details.

NMS Recorded Presentations

The majority of the NMS meeting Zoom presentations made during the pandemic were also recorded and may be viewed by using the links on the main page of our web site (scroll down to find them). The February program should be available soon.

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

This puzzle contains the letters ACONSTUWZ; one row or column includes the location of the huge mineral show. 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	W			S			Z
C			N		A			T
			W		Z	N	U	O
		Z					T	N
	S		Z					C
	C			N	W		O	
			T				N	
A		U	C		N	T		
N	T		S		U			

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. The AFMS News is linked from our web site, <<http://www.nittanymineral.org>>, and can be found at <http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm>.

The AFMS March Newsletter is available on the web site.

The Eastern Federation March newsletter is available on the NMS web site. President Ellery Borow reports “Compass and the portable GPS device in hand, clubs are emerging from the COVID forest.” Spring Wildacres is coming up; plans are in the works for a review of the financials, maintenance of the EFMLS website, production of a 2022 Directory of Member Clubs, and preparation for Zoom meetings and program offerings. Chairperson openings exist in several Federation committees (see the newsletter). “Officers and committees keep in contact via phone, e-mail, texts, and zooms. This is a Federation that works as a team. We would like to invite you to be part of the team that builds a better future for all clubs. It is rewarding work for worthwhile goals. We would like to talk with you.” The 2022 Annual Meeting is set for Harrisburg in September, and 2023 is planned for Syracuse, NY.

-Editor

Tucson Travel Log and Report

by Bill Stephens, PG
1st VP and Region 4
Regional VP, EFMLS
President, FM-PA
from the March 2022
EFMLS News



"Postcard Picture" of El Capitan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Northern Chihuahua Desert, Texas.

The Tucson Show was amazing, and I'm told it has changed a lot in the last few years. I had not been to Tucson since 1984 and barely remember much, especially since I got really sick afterwards - laid in my cot for a week. I drove up from my master's thesis area (geologic mapping) in Cucurpe, Sonora, Mexico, to see the show given it was only about 100 clicks north of my field area. So, for me, this was not only a stellar adventure, but it was also a little déjà vu.

I should preface my road log by saying the main reason I justified going this year, and not in the past, was that now that I have been elected President of the Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA) and I had submitted and been approved to present a presentation on Pyromorphite from Phoenixville, PA at the annual FM Symposium at the main show, I felt it was important to attend and present in person (at least that's what I told everyone). I also went to buy and be part of the experience. The FM Annual meeting was scheduled for Friday morning and the symposium was held at the convention center on Saturday, the day before the main Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS) was to end.

I should start by saying I live in the northeastern corner of Maryland. And I drove to Tucson and back! My travel

companion for the ride there, Cheryl Neary (past president of EFMLS), lives on Long Island. She took Amtrak down to the station at Aberdeen Maryland, where I picked her up at about 5:45 p.m. on Sunday February 9. I drove straight through the night and all-day Monday and by 7:00 p.m. CT on Monday, we were in Abilene Texas for the night. We got a room and a good steak at the Mesquite Pit in Weatherford, TX.

We took off Tuesday morning running Route 10 all the way except for a short detour to visit Guadalupe National Park (it was great). We did stop on the way to examine the fossiliferous Permian basin carbonates exposed in many roadcuts along the way in west Texas. We arrived at our lodging about 10 p.m. MT. Pooped but Psyched.

With a good night's rest, we started off at the Mineral City Show only a few blocks from our motel. We spent much of the morning at Mineral City, one of the larger



Cheryl checking out some Permian limestones along a road cut on I-10 in west Texas few miles east of the I-10/I-20 split.



Amethyst and Citrine Geode "Cathedrals". First thing to greet us inside the first dealer tent we visited. Wowza!

satellite shows. Some of the big-name dealers like Kristalle and Arkenstone had moved from the Main TGMS at the convention center to this show. We wound up going to another show to get supplies like stands and boxes. I know I spent \$500 in one store. My first big mineral purchase was actually Ammolite from Korite. Wwwwwooww! And I brought some back!



Large Ammolite Ammonites, prices to match. One place in the world produces this gemstone.



We ended Wednesday with an excellent dinner at El Charro's, which became a haunt and I highly recommend it.

Thursday Cheryl had arranged a collecting adventure with her old friend (Bill Gauge). We rallied at our motel and drove down I-19 to Sahuarita (new community) where we took some back roads towards Bill's azurite-malachite claim. We made a stop to inspect some granitic rocks exposed in a dry wash and found some veins of crystallized quartz with as yet to be determined micro minerals.



One of the best surprises was this case of the last five years of production of wulfenite from the Rowley Mine. The orange-red colored mimeteite on the wulfenite windowpanes was exceptional.



Possibly gold-bearing quartz vein in granite.



When I say prices have jumped, check out the price on this aqua! "45 K"

After that break we continued on our way toward Bill's claim but were thwarted by electronically surveilled gates and "no trespassing" signs that had been recently erected to protect gold mining on the private property. We decided to return to the show and bid the mountain roads adieu. We did stop to get some drone photos of the scenery.

Thursday afternoon we decided to hit the Kino Show. I recall a bit of a "speed walk" as Cheryl and I split up to divide and conquer. Later that evening we picked Kathy up from the airport and called it quits for the night.



View looking North at recent gold mining activity in the mountains south of Tucson.

Friday after an early breakfast, I attended the Friends of Mineralogy annual meeting. We actually finished early and covered all the topics we expected to cover with unexpected unity of vision and purpose. I like these guys & gals. Two committees that I'm chairing are of general interest: (1) The committee to promote FM and its chapters as pre-approved providers of continuing education for professional geologists for those states that have the PG licensing requirement and the continuing education requirement. Licensed Professional Geologists should be aware that FM is pre-approved as a provider and the symposia are either free or nominal cost. If you are a PG in DE, PA and NC, you can get all 12-plus Continuing Education credits you need every year from the PA Chapter and National Symposia. That is a little-known fact. (2) An exploratory committee to develop a portal for clubs to find speakers for specific topics. I'm working with Ryan Klockner on this as he has already developed the speaker profile and presentation catalogue part of the code within his Geology 365. Stay tuned. If we can pull this off, it will be Rad!

I did some more buying Friday- it's such a blur as there is so much to see and remember. Some places had such gorgeous displays with such high prices all I could do was walk through, take pics on the fly, say "hi do you have a card" and "bye," lol.

Saturday was the 40th Tucson Mineral Symposium followed by the awards banquet both held at the Tucson Convention Center. We had 11 guest speakers give presentations on "Minerals of the Apatite Supergroup and Mineral Fluorescence". Speakers included Daniel Harlov, John Rakovan, Evan Smith, Dr. Peter Megaw (TGMS Show

Chairman), Markus Raschke, Ray Grant, Thomas Loomis, Nicolas Hebert, Glenn Waychunas, Madeline Murchland and me. (If you'd like a program, contact me via email) All the talks were great, some were highly technical and some like mine were more lay oriented. What an amazing assemblage of experts (myself excluded of course). The hybrid meeting went pretty well except for a brief interlude getting the last speaker's talk up and running. I managed to slip out and visit with Adam Wright and buy a couple crocoite specimens from him during the short break.

The awards ceremony was held in the adjacent conference room after the symposium. There were quite a few awards, and we said happy birthday to one of the old timers. Nearly all the faces were new to me and I was pretty beat so I'll rely on others to give more details on the awards. I can say having seen a few of the cases, even the junior cases, I was quite impressed.

I was also very impressed with the 12 exhibit cases devoted/dedicated to Richard Graeme who was a well-known collector of Bisbee and other Arizona Minerals and had passed away last year. The love that went into those exhibits was a real testament to how well known, respected, and loved he was, and how influential he was in the mineral community. The show competition exhibits remain a model for collectors everywhere.

Sunday we did the last of our shopping and visiting at various shows. I found some very nice higher end vanadinite cabinet specimens for my collection and resale. Cheryl, Kathy, and I had dinner that evening with friends of Cheryl's who had retired from NY to Tucson. We had a wonderful dinner at an Italian restaurant then went back and started packing. I dropped Cheryl and Kathy off at the airport and turned my nose toward Texas and ultimately home after dropping them off about 8:30 am MT.

Anyone interested in seeing more pictures and hearing more about Tucson can join me for my Zoom presentation Monday April 4, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST. Thank you for your attention and happy hunting!

NMS BOARD MEETING NOTICE

NMS members are invited to attend Board of Directors meetings, which are generally held at 7:30 p.m., early in the month or as decided by the Board, although we do not meet every month. The next date is March 22. Members who would like to attend should contact president David Glick to verify time and place; those who would like to have their discussion item placed on the agenda should contact him at least one week in advance of the meeting.

John Ebner Great Grandfather of Micromounting

by Kathy Hrechka,
Micromineralogists of the
National Capital Area Editor
from the March 2022 EFMLS News

This year's Tucson Gem and Mineral Show was an extraordinary event, thanks to John Ebner. He was the first person to greet me outside the micromounters room at the convention center and told me that he had recently celebrated a milestone birthday — his 90th.

John first became interested in minerals in the 1950s, after he completed two years of service with the Navy. He met a stamp dealer who also was a mineral collector. The dealer asked John if he collected minerals; John said he didn't know anything about them. The dealer said he was starting a mineral club and wondered whether John would be interested. John checked with his wife, Janet, to see if she would be interested in joining together. She wasn't, but 13 years later, in 1969, John and his older son joined a mineral club in New Jersey. Ten years later, he joined the Tucson (Arizona) Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS).

I first encountered John at the Baltimore Micromounters Symposium, an event he began attending in 1981. He was known for creating historical micromineral collections, which he brought down in his car from his New Jersey home for display at the symposiums. More recently, thanks to Zoom, he has been able to attend from Arizona.

Through the years, John has entered numerous micromineral exhibits. He was awarded 1st place in the slide competition category at the TGMS show in 1988 and 1990. He also won 1st place at a show in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Rakestraw collection of microminerals — a display that he has exhibited at 27 shows, symposia, and conferences. The Rakestraw collection is now archived in his home. In 1997 John was inducted in the Paul Desautels Micromounters Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the Baltimore Mineral Society of Maryland.

In 2010, John and a friend drove across the country to Tucson, Arizona. Five years later he purchased a home in Tucson — one that has evolved into an historical

micromineral museum. The eponymous part of his collection contains over 420 specimens mounted by the persons for whom they are named. In addition, he has more than 90 microscopes, including 16 from members of the Micromounters Hall of Fame, along with 10 plaques presented to Hall of Fame members upon induction.

When he wasn't collecting (and displaying) microminerals, John worked for the U.S. Postal Service, spending 24 of his 29 years there as a commercial driver. In addition to his Navy service, he earlier worked part-time at his father's carpet business from junior high school through college and beyond.

John was married for 55 years to Janet DeBow, with whom he had two daughters and two sons. Janet passed away in 2008. He has three grandsons and one granddaughter, as well as four great-grandsons (one in college) and one great-granddaughter. That qualifies John to be the best great-grandfather ever!



John Ebner & Kathy Hrechka

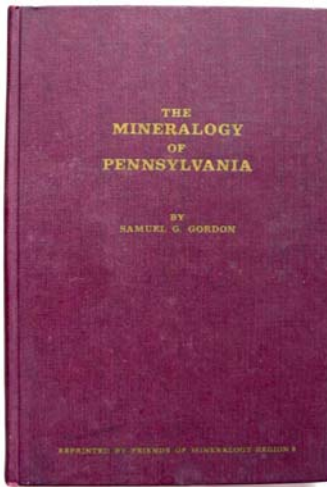
Mineralogical Record News

Mineralogical Record magazine now has digital subscriptions available. See the link at <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/> for details and to view an example.

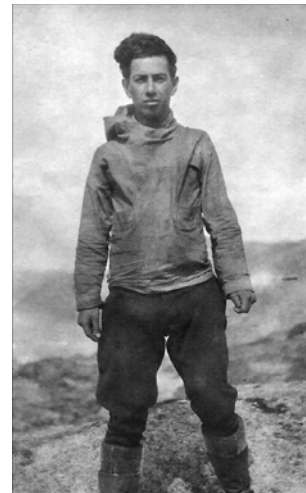
The latest "What's New" column by Tom Moore is now available online, with lots of excellent photos: <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/whats-new/>

100 Years of Gordon's Mineralogy of Pennsylvania

The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania, by Samuel G. Gordon, was originally published by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia as Special Publication 1 in 1922. There have been various reprints since then, including the "fourth printing," being the first in hardcover (shown at right), done in 1973 in the early days of Friends of Mineralogy-Region 3 (later to be FM-PA Chapter) under the chairmanship of Martin Anné.



D. Glick photo



Samuel G. Gordon on one of the two expeditions that he led to Greenland in 1923 and 1932.

Photograph from the Pennsylvania Geological Survey archives.

Pennsylvania Geology magazine, Issue 51-4, Winter 2021, includes a fascinating article on Gordon and his publication: **One Hundredth Anniversary of a Publishing Milestone**, by John H. Barnes, Pennsylvania Geological Survey, retired. That issue and others are available through links at http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1751958&DocName=Hyperlinks_PaGeoMagazine.pdf (also under 'Links' at <https://rasloto.com/FM/>). A few excerpts are provided here to entice the reader to examine the complete article and its references. The Gordon and gordonite photos and captions at right are from Barnes' article.

"One might suspect that a major compilation such as this would have come toward the end of a long and illustrious career, but that conclusion would be incorrect. *The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania* was published by the Academy in 1922, the year in which Gordon turned 25. ...his compilation was more complete than any previous one."

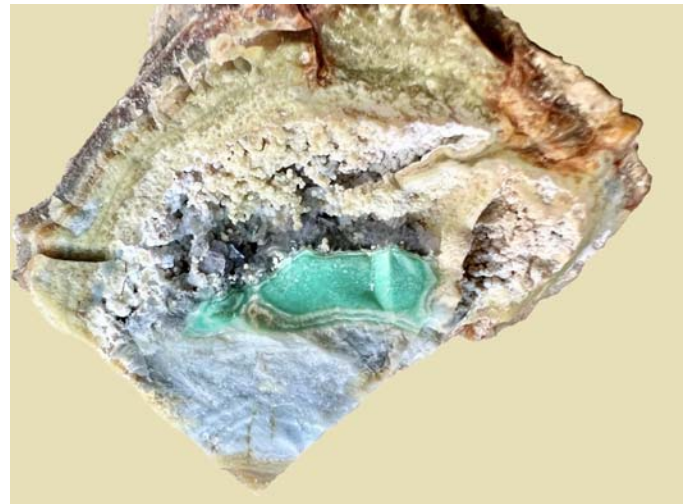
"Gordon's formal training in mineralogy was limited to courses taken between the ages of 14 and 18 at the Wagner Free Institute of Science in Philadelphia, where he had an excellent teacher, Edgar T. Wherry, who had recently received a Ph.D. in mineralogy from the University of Pennsylvania. Wherry played an important role in nurturing Gordon's interest and curiosity about mineral occurrences. At age 16, Gordon received a fellowship at the Academy of Natural Sciences, where he worked with a large private collection of 12,000 specimens that had been willed to the Academy by William S. Vaux. That work furthered Gordon's interest in minerals, including his interest in attempting to understand why particular minerals are found in certain places and not elsewhere (Montgomery, 1973)."

"...Gordon had a strong interest in improving communication among mineralogists ... One aspect of that was manifested by his enthusiasm as an active member of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Another, which was to have national repercussions to this day, was his

spending "much of 1915 contacting individuals and organizations and by early 1916 [assembling] a staff" of what was to eventually become an important new journal, *The American Mineralogist*, which later became the principal journal of the Mineralogical Society of America after it was organized in 1919. Gordon accomplished this when he was only 19 years old..."

"Founding *The American Mineralogist* and publishing *The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania* were only the opening acts of a long career..."

-Editor



Specimen from Clay Canyon, Oquirrh Mountains, Utah, containing gordonite, $\text{MgAl}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The name **gordonite**, in honor of Samuel Gordon, was proposed by Esper S. Larsen of Harvard University and Earl V. Shannon of the U.S. National Museum, who first described it (Larsen, E. S., and Shannon, E. V., 1930, *The minerals of the phosphate nodules from near Fairfield, Utah: American Mineralogist*, v. 15, p. 307-337). They recognized its relation to the mineral paravauxite, $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Al}_2(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which was first described by Gordon. The gordonite is present as the relatively large, dark crystals in the cavity near the center of the specimen. The bright green mineral just below them is variscite, $\text{AlPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The bluish-gray material below that is probably wardite, $\text{NaAl}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The small, lighter colored crystals in the cavity are possibly crandallite, $\text{CaAl}_3(\text{PO}_4)(\text{PO}_3\text{OH})(\text{OH})_6$. The specimen is approximately 5.5 cm in width. This specimen was in the personal collection of Arthur Montgomery, who considered it to be the best specimen of gordonite not in a museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

March 11-12, 2022: Micromount Symposium, by Leidy Microscopical Society. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mil Rd., Richboro, PA 18954. Friday 12-6, Sat. 9-6. Reservations, admission fees, etc: donmcalarnen@outlook.com

Mar. 26 - 27, 2022: Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, by Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Eugene C. Clarke Jr. Community Center, 25 South 3rd Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. <https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-County-Rock-and-Mineral-Club-1601767103396099/>

Mar. 26-27, 2022: Annual Show, by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road, Wysox, PA. Sat 9-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.chehannarocks.com/>

Mar. 26-27, 2022: 2022 Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA., (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20) Free Parking. Saturday March 26, 10-5, Sun. 10 - 4. <http://www.phillyrocks.org>

April 2, 2022: Atlantic Micromineral Conference, by Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. Sat. 1:00-5:00 on Zoom. www.dcmicrominerals.org

April 4, 2022: 7:30 p.m. Tucson Trip Zoom presentation online by Bill Stephens

April 30-May 1, 2022: World of Gems & Minerals Show, by Berks Mineralogical Soc. The Pavilion at Leesport Farmers Market, next to Banquet Hall, 312 Gernant's Church Rd. Leesport, PA 19533. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

May 14, 2022: Spring Rock Swap & Sale, by Franklin County R&M Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, West of Arendtsville, PA on Route 234. Sat. 8-3. See their facebook page posting Jan. 28.

May 16-22, 2022: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop Spring Session, North Carolina. www.efmls.org/wildacres

June 4, 2022: Spring Mineralfest, by PESA. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

Sep. 23-25, 2022: EFMLS Annual Convention, Harrisburg, PA

Geo-Sudoku Solution

U	N	W	O	T	S	A	C	Z
C	Z	O	N	U	A	S	W	T
S	A	T	W	C	Z	N	U	O
O	U	Z	A	S	C	W	T	N
W	S	N	Z	O	T	U	A	C
T	C	A	U	N	W	Z	O	S
Z	W	S	T	A	O	C	N	U
A	O	U	C	Z	N	T	S	W
N	T	C	S	W	U	O	Z	A

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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Facebook & Publicity: John Dziak: 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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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, but please do not embed them in word processor files; send them as separate graphics files (good to highest quality JPEG files, about 1050 pixels wide, are preferred). Please provide captions and name of photographer or artist.

Visit us at www.nittanymineral.org