

# **Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin**

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

Editor (see back page):

January, 2024

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

David C. Glick

**January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**  
**IN PERSON at BOAL HALL**

## **Thirty Years of Nittany Mineralogical Society: Our Past, Present, and Future**

by David Glick and NMS members

*Our January meeting will be held Wednesday the 17th in Boal Hall (Boalsburg Fire Hall), 113 East Pine St., Boalsburg, PA 16827. Maps can be found on our web site.*

*7:15 to 7:45 p.m.: Social "hour." We will serve some refreshments - snacks and beverages - or feel free to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.*

*7:45 to 8:00 p.m.: Announcements, door prizes.  
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.*

*We expect to record the presentation for our web site. ✨*

At the January meeting we'll review our history, consider our current status, and discuss the future, particularly the near future in terms of stations and activities at Minerals Junior Education Day on Saturday, March 23. See the article on page 3. *-Editor*

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**February 21: Coast to Coast: A 100 day Adventure**, by Mike Canich, Geologic Consultant and retired petroleum geologist. "On May 1, 2022, I began a trip across the United States on the Trans American Bike Trail covering 4,250 miles. The Trail begins in Yorktown, Virginia and ends in Astoria, Oregon. Along the way I encountered fellow trail riders, spoke with many locals, and saw numerous geologic sites and historical markers. My talk will be about these encounters. Prior to the talk during the social hour, I will have the bicycle I rode with all the equipment that I carried available to view and discuss."

**March 20, 6:00 p.m. Geode Night**

## **Field Tour: Rescheduling Alexander Caverns**

From David Glick, President

Our December 9<sup>th</sup> tour of the "dry side" of Alexander Caverns near Milroy was canceled due to a Covid-19 case. We plan to reschedule, coordinating with Bald Eagle Grotto and Ann Dunlavy of Lincoln Caverns. Watch for news.

## **Minerals Junior Education Day Set for March 23, 2024**

Please save the date to volunteer at our annual event for kids and families. Plan an educational station with souvenir giveaways, or volunteer to help at an existing one. We'll be discussing the possibilities at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **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 our web site, <<http://www.nittanymineral.org>>.

The AFMS January Newsletter was not yet available as of this writing.

The Eastern Federation's January Newsletter begins with Bill Stephens' President's Message summarizing the past year's accomplishments. Diamond Dan Publications for juniors will soon be provided to all member clubs. An up-to-date EFMLS directory can be produced on demand for club officers, reducing workload and increasing accuracy. The Presenter Database in Geology365 is online - see page 2. Wildacres workshop, the only session this year, is set for May 13-19; see page 2 and articles, schedules and registration form in the January EFMLS newsletter. *-Editor*

## **Symposium on Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful**

The finest and most noteworthy and influential experts in pegmatites will give their presentations at the Tucson Mineral Symposium on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. Remote viewing is free - register now at (scroll to bottom of page)  
<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>

### Have a Presentation? List it in the Geology365 Presenter Database

Geology365.com, the free platform providing management tools for mineral clubs and individuals, has introduced a database to connect clubs seeking presentations with those who can provide them. If you have programs you can present, you are urged to get an account on the site and enter them. Go to the site, scroll on down to ‘Articles’ and read about the Presenter Database. Once you have an account and log in, there should be a ‘My Presentations’ entry in the left sidebar to get you started. There’s more on pages 3-4 of the January 2024 EFMLS News. *-Editor*

### Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters BEGILRSUW. One row or column is an early field trip area. If you’ve read this issue very carefully, 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.

E		W			U	R		
	B			L		I		
G	I	L	R					U
			S		L			
L				R	B	U		
W			U	G		L		
I				E		W		S
								L
	E	U	L					I

### Crack the News

#### AFMS Newsletter for Kids

based on AFMS Newsletter September, 2023

Crack the News is an AFMS newsletter written by kids for kids who love rocks, minerals, and fossils. In the second issue, kids can read and learn about:

- Concavenator dinosaur
- Giant rabbits
- Mineral shows
- The Trilobite vs. The Opabinia
- Earning the Rocks and Minerals Badge.

It’s now available from the AFMS juniors website at <<https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>>.

### Spring 2024 Wildacres: Speaker-in-Residence Michael J. Colella

by Helen Serras-Herman,  
Speaker-in-Residence Coordinator,  
Wildacres Committee

from the EFMLS January Newsletter -  
**please see the entire article there.**

We are very fortunate to have a fabulous new Speaker-in-Residence for the Spring 2024 session of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, Michael. J. Colella, a multi-faceted artist, who will share his passion of photography, rocks and minerals, world sands, suiseki stones, and woodturning art.



Michael J. Colella is a native Washingtonian who grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland. As a child, Mike used to go hunting with his dad and scour the ground for rocks and possible fossils. In 5th grade, his dad made a wooden display case for his collection to enter in the school science fair, and his first connection to the earth was formed...

[see the full article in the Jan. EFMLS News]

... Michael will give six presentations at Wildacres on all these art forms and travels. I’ve known Mike for over 35 years. He has photographed much of my work. Get ready to see and hear how all these experiences became one man’s connection to the Earth. I am sure you will enjoy his stunning photography and stories of his life passions. Mike will be accompanied by his wife Sue.

# Thirty Years of Nittany Mineralogical Society: Past, Present and Future

by David C. Glick  
NMS President



For many years, we met in the main gallery of Penn State's Mineral Museum. Here, Karen deHaas speaks on "Appraising Gems" in April 2000.  
*A. Sicree photo*

## Founding

Our society was founded in 1994. Some of our members had been part of an earlier club in town with a lapidary emphasis, the Nittany Valley Mineral Club. Others had participated in gem and mineral clubs elsewhere and were looking for the same activities in State College. The Penn State Mineral Museum provided a nucleus, and a Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter symposium held here in 1993 brought some of the key players together. The society was founded in January 1994, and chose the third Wednesday of the month for its meeting night.

## Monthly Meetings

The first regular meeting was held on February 16, 1994, in Steidle Building on Penn State's University Park campus in State College. The program was "How Do Diamonds Form?" by Professor of Geology Dr. David P. "Duff" Gold. The second program was by Penn State professor and club member Dr. Frank Aplan, who spoke on "Ghost Mines and Mining Camps of the Old West" illustrated with many slides from his extensive travels. Next, the April 1994 meeting featured Kurt Nassau, author of several books on color in gemstones, speaking on "Gems: Science, Synthesis, Beauty and Deception." These meetings set the pattern for presentations by our members, Penn State professors, and invited guests from the world of mineral collecting and mineral science. A complete list of

programs through the years is available on our web site. Topics have included mineral collecting and mineralogy, gems, lapidary, geology, and history of the mineral industries, particularly in Pennsylvania.



A 1997 field trip to Gettysburg (Teeter) Quarry; left to right: Shirley Fonda, Jeanne Dague, Andrew Sicree, 2nd field trip chair Carl Rogers, 1st field trip chair Joe Dague, Mike Sheasley.  
*Photo courtesy of A. Sicree*

## Field Trips

Field trips to collect minerals and fossils were one of the reasons for creating the society. The first field trip was held in April 1994, just two months after the first meeting. Field trip Chair Joe Dague took the club to Eastern Industries' Dale's Ridge Quarry west of Lewisburg. Oak Hall Quarry (now owned by Heidelberg Materials) near State College was a popular destination in the early years.



Dolomite on calcite, Oak Hall Quarry. *J. Passaneau photo*

Likewise in later years the good specimens found at National Limestone's Mount Pleasant Mills location have made it popular, and the cooperation of owner Eric Stahl has made multiple visits possible.



Lincoln Caverns. *D Glick photo*

We've also been doing tours of geologically interesting sites, rather than collecting trips. Seven Mountains, Scotia, Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks have been visited, and a tour of Alexander Caverns is planned.



At National Limestone's Middleburg Quarry in 2008, Tim Holtz and Field Trip Chair Ed Echler collect purple fluorite. *D. Glick photo*

**Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows**

We held a series of four Nittany Gem and Mineral Shows, which included dealers, children's activities, a speaker program, field trips, and more. We have not held the show since 2009 because of the cost and difficulty in scheduling local venues.



An evening auction of donated mineral specimens was always a popular symposium event and a good fundraiser for the Society. Jeanne Dague (left) shows a specimen while Andrew Sicree (right) conducts the auction in 1999.

*Photo courtesy of A. Sicree.*



Monroe Furnace; tour leader Bob Altamura at left. *D. Glick photo.*

**Mineral Symposia**

Among the major projects in the club's first decade were a series of seven (not counting the Friends of Mineralogy -PA Chapter symposium before NMS formed) symposia for mineral collectors, generally featuring a full day of talks by experts, an auction, a banquet with keynote speaker, and a full day field trip. These attracted speakers and attendees from well outside the local area, providing many opportunities for learning more about the world of mineral collecting.



Jeff Scovil speaks about mineral specimen photography at the 1996 Centennial Symposium.

*A. Sicree photo*



2006 Show at Mt. Nittany Middle School. *R. Altamura photo*

**Official Status**

We incorporated as a non-profit in Pennsylvania prior to our first Nittany Gem and Mineral Show in 2006, and in early 2008 we received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, retroactive to our incorporation in 2006.



In the educational & outreach area of the 2008 show, Bob Altamura demonstrates gem polishing.

*A. Sicree photo*

**Minerals Junior Education Day**

Our longest-term project, other than monthly meetings, has been our annual Minerals Junior Education Day for children and their parents. Children go to about eight different stations, each with a different topic on minerals, gems, fossils, or earth science. Each station includes a demonstration, display or activity and a discussion with trained personnel, and each provides a labeled specimen related to the topic. Students receive an empty egg carton when they enter, and then build a collection of specimens in the egg carton as they visit the various stations.



At the 2000 Minerals Junior Education Day, Shirley Fonda explains invertebrate fossils to kids and parents. *D. Glick photo*



In 2007, Daniel Bontempo showed a variety of lapidary techniques to the kids. *A. Sicree photo*



GPAA's gold panning is always a huge attraction at Minerals Junior Education Day. *D. Glick photo, 2007*

**Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day**

For several years, NMS participated in Clearwater Conservancy's Spring Creek Day (with variations in the name), a family-oriented event which brought together local outdoors groups to raise awareness and teach the public.



At the 2011 Spring Creek Day, Bob Altamura and John Passaneau discussed "Minerals versus Rocks" and Steve Poterala demonstrated gemstone faceting. *D. Glick photo*

**Display Cases at EMS Museum**

Another outreach effort organized by Bob Altamura has been a display case set up by NMS at Penn State's Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum on the ground floor of Deike Building. Displays are changed once or twice a year: more photographs are available on our web site under "Outreach" and the current exhibit is under "Museum display case."



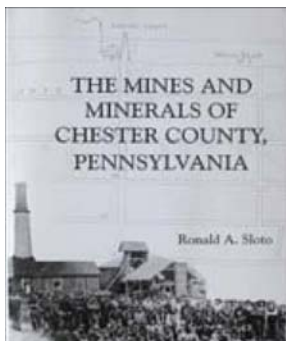
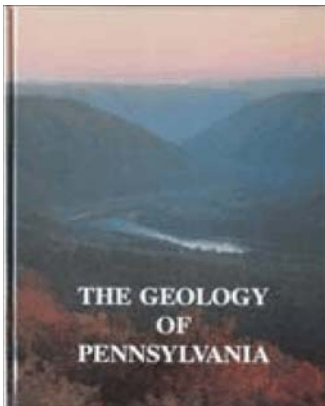
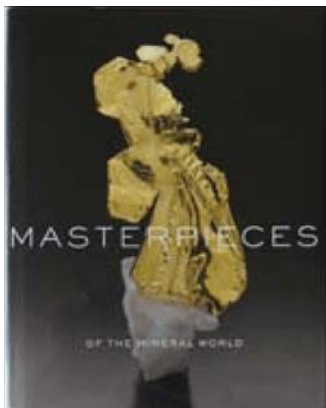
2007 display of the State College Oolite was shown at the Gem & Mineral Show and later at the EMS Museum.



"Fluorite: Specialization in Mineral Collecting" has been in place at the Museum through Covid, gallery renovations, etc. *J. Snider photo*

**Book Donations**

NMS has undertaken a program to donate books in our field to local public and school libraries.



**Mineral crystal sets**



We have been selling sets of 18 colorful mineral specimens, most of which show crystal faces, a step above many sets available in tourist shops and elsewhere on the market. Many are popular gem minerals, and all have their source localities noted. A 28-page booklet by John S. White, former curator-in-charge of the Smithsonian's famous mineral and gem collection, is included. John White had assembled the specimens and written drafts of the booklet; NMS purchased the entire stock and completed the assembly of the project. The specimens are not labeled, but have painted color-coded dots; the descriptions in the booklet can be used to identify the specimens, then those identifications can be checked against the answers key sealed inside the booklet's back cover.

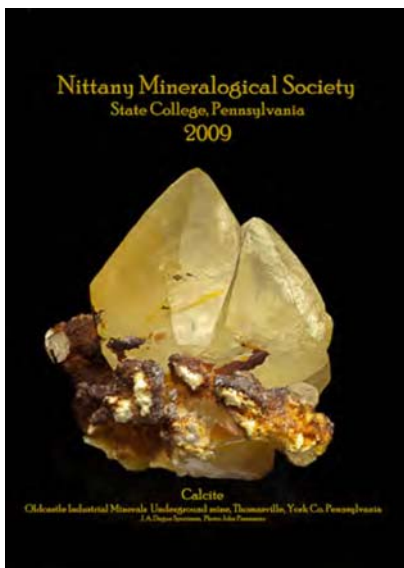
**T-shirts**

We have NMS T-shirts in several colors and sizes, printed both front and back with designs created by Bob Altamura. See the web site for more information.



**Posters**

From 2008 to 2012, John Passaneau created an annual mineral poster for NMS to sell. They are produced using digital photo stacking and printer optimization techniques to yield exceptional results. See the web site under "merchandise" for a showcase.



**Life Members**

We have honored two of our members who were instrumental in founding and supporting our Society by naming them Life Members. Dr. Andrew Sicree was honored in 2006, and Dr. D.P. "Duff" Gold in 2018.



Dr. Andrew Sicree, 2006



Dr. Duff Gold, 2009

### Junior Rockhounds Meetings

Our Junior Rockhounds club, held season-by-season when we can work out the schedule, provides free meetings for children and their parents.



Andrew Sicree leads a Junior Rockhounds meeting. *D. Glick photo.*

Kids get to do hands-on learning activities with real minerals, receive identified specimens to take home, and are given a free plastic divided storage box to keep them in. Andrew Sicree has been the organizer for these programs for many years, bringing satisfaction to hundreds of children.

### The NMS Bulletin

Andrew Sicree started our Bulletin within two months of our first meeting in 1994, and published it until convincing Dave Glick to take over in 2000. With the help of many contributors, Dave expanded it from two pages to four, and then eight and occasionally twelve, and first included color in 2003. Issues dating back to 2007 are available on the web site.

### Web site and Social Media

Our web site was first hosted by Penn State's College of Earth & Mineral Sciences, then moved to a commercial host. During and after the pandemic, we have recorded many of our meeting programs and made the videos available on the web site. John Dziak created our Facebook page and continues to maintain it.

### Donations

As a nonprofit organization, NMS welcomes donations which can be used toward our goals of educating and promoting interest in minerals and the earth sciences. Our late member John Passaneau provided a generous cash bequest, as well as donating his micromount collection and microscopes, and some other specimens. NMS also purchased his library of mineral books from his estate. The estate of Charlotte Smith donated her library, which emphasizes collecting localities, complementing the more technical library from John Passaneau. The late Denny Zwigart's library was donated.



Passaneau micromount collection. *D. Glick photo*

Barbara and the late Michael Sincak have provided extensive support for our Minerals Junior Education Days by donating significant quantities of specimens through the years. Avid Pennsylvania collector John

'Pen' Ambler donated a large quantity of a variety of specimens which we have been using as door prizes and for Minerals Junior Education Day. 'Skip' Colflesh and his collecting group donated a large number of Pennsylvania specimens which we are still using and distributing.

More recently, long-time member Shirley Fonda has been donating books and many specimens. Betsy Suhey, who used to have Aurum Goldsmiths in downtown State College, has donated lots of lapidary supplies and material. Duff Gold donated his collection to Bilger's Rocks Educational Center through NMS, with some items staying with NMS. Andrew Sicree provided a batch of lapidary machines and other equipment. Barry Scheetz recently donated a microscope. Many other members and friends have donated funds or materials as well, and the Society is very grateful for all of them. All are appreciated, whether or not listed here.

### Finding A Home

Almost all of these donations now reside at the president's home. The Board of Directors is interested in finding real estate - a home for NMS - that might house the library, an office, and space for holding Junior Rockhounds meetings or teaching with lapidary equipment and mineral samples. Unfortunately, with the local economy doing well, our funds wouldn't go very far. For now, we'll try to accommodate any members who want access to the library or a microscope.

### Thank You

This seems like a good time and place to express the Society's thanks to all those members and other volunteers who make the Society's activities possible. Our officers and other Board of Directors members do a lot of work! However, they can't do it all, and we are very grateful to those who present programs, volunteer at events, and help in many other ways.



### And more...

Your editor has run out of room to list our activities and interesting aspects of our history... if your favorite has been left out, please come to the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and tell everyone about it!

## Most recent history Fort Roberdeau location found

An article in the Huntingdon Daily News of January 6, 2024, cites a 2015 Nittany Mineralogical Society meeting as inspiring the recent successful search for the actual location of Fort Roberdeau. LiDAR was a key method; "results corroborated the earlier resistivity surveys... The researchers' findings will be shared with Fort Roberdeau visitors when the site reopens for the season on May 1, 2024." *Thanks go to Jim Garthe for providing a copy of the article. - Editor*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.  
<https://efmls.org/events/>

See other show calendar links on our web site.

**Feb. 10, 2024:** Tucson Mineral Symposium, Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful, **free viewing online**. See page 1 and <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/> (scroll to bottom of page). It's also free in person in Tucson.

**Mar. 2-3, 2024:** 60th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Society. DoubleTree by Hilton; 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202); Wilmington, Delaware 19803. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5. [www.DMSrocks.org](http://www.DMSrocks.org) , [www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow](http://www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow)

**Mar. 8-9, 2024:** Micromount Symposium, by Leidy Microscopical Society. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd., Richboro PA 18954  
 Fri 12-6, Sat 9-6. Fri. \$5. Sat. \$10 includes lunch.  
[donmcalarnen@outlook.com](mailto:donmcalarnen@outlook.com)

**Mar. 23-24, 2024:** Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair, by Phila. Min. Soc. and Delaware Valley Paleo. Soc.  
 Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA  
 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. [www.phillyrocks.org](http://www.phillyrocks.org)

### Geo-Sudoku Solution

E	S	W	G	I	U	R	L	B
U	B	R	W	L	S	I	E	G
G	I	L	R	B	E	S	W	U
B	U	E	S	W	L	G	I	R
L	G	I	E	R	B	U	S	W
W	R	S	U	G	I	L	B	E
I	L	G	B	E	R	W	U	S
S	W	B	I	U	G	E	R	L
R	E	U	L	S	W	B	G	I

### 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 has not been decided. 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.

### 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](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:

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### SOCIETY OFFICERS

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 Stuart Bingham (Treasurer)  
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### OTHER CONTACTS

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 814-867-6263 (h) e-mail: [aas132@psu.edu](mailto:aas132@psu.edu)  
 Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)  
 Programs: Dr. Duff Gold 865-7261(o), 238-3377(h)  
 e-mail: [dpgold33@comcast.net](mailto:dpgold33@comcast.net), [gold@ems.psu.edu](mailto:gold@ems.psu.edu)  
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 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](mailto: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, 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](http://www.nittanymineral.org)**