

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

February, 2024

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

February 21st meeting:
IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

Coast to Coast: A 100 day Adventure

by Mike Canich

Geologic Consultant and retired petroleum geologist
Our February meeting will be held Wednesday the 21st 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." 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.

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.
See pages 2-3 for a descriptive article ✨

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

NMS is excited to welcome back Jeff Smith, "the Geode Guy," to present Geode Night to our club again. Starting at **6:00 p.m.**, several sizes of whole geodes will be available for purchase. After you buy, Jeff will crack them open for you and you'll be the first person ever to see the crystals inside. When the geode cracking is finished, Jeff Smith will present a program on geodes at about 7:15. The event is family friendly and very interesting; no purchase is necessary, you can come just for the program.
-Editor

Minerals Junior Ed. Day March 23
Register kids starting early March
Volunteers Needed

Minerals Junior Education Day Set for March 23, 2024

Please save the date to volunteer at an educational station at our annual event for kids and families. Advance donations of specimens for the sales table are also invited. We'll continue to discuss the plans at the February 21st meeting, or contact Frank Kowalczyk: 814-404-9854 or frank.j.kowalczyk@gmail.com

Membership Directory and Cards

From David Glick, President

Paid members will receive their membership cards and a membership directory this month.

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 February Newsletter continues providing information on the May24-26 convention in Ventura, CA; see updates at <www.2024cfms-afms.com>. The PR Chair discusses using social media, and Historian Jennifer Haley seeks cartoons and poems from early editions of club newsletters, as well as stories of how rockhounds used their expertise to aid the war effort in WWII. Many Rockhounds of the Year are introduced. There's much more!

In the Eastern Federation's February Newsletter, President Bill Stephens discusses the availability of Diamond Dan's Mini Miners Monthly to club members, the Geology365 Presenter database, and the February 10 Tucson Mineral Symposium.
-Editor

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters AHLMNOPST. One row or column includes crystal outlines within crystals. 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 4.

O		T	S	L		H		
H	L				N		P	T
A	P		T			N		S
				A				
							S	
N		O			L	T		A
	A	P	O		T			N
L		H				A		
	O						T	

Top Signs You Are a Mineral Collector

From Mini Miners Monthly 12/2023

Your Yahoo password is wulfenite, your Gmail password is malachite and your Facebook password is corundum.

You know the chemical formula for cavansite.

Words like "dodecahedral" and "jolly balance" actually make sense.

"Matrix" is not a movie title to you.

Your room is so full of specimens that you have to move your clothes in the garage.

Your garage is so full of specimens you have to move your clothes to the shed.

Your shed is so full of specimens . . .well, you get the idea.

You can find places like Tucson, Tsumeb and D'alnegorsk on a world map.

You will pay \$100 for a wulfenite specimen but you won't pay \$25 for lunch.

Your vacation is a waste of time if you don't come home with at least one specimen.

Your girlfriend is named Crystal or
Your boyfriend is named Rocky.

You know more than 10 mineral dealers by name... and they know your name, too.

You are disappointed to discover "The Phantom of the Opera" is not about crystals.

State College Man Bikes Across America

By Vincent Corso - August 28, 2022

Reprinted with permission from Statecollege.com and the Aug. 25-31, 2022, edition of The Centre County Gazette.



MICHAEL CANICH stops at the Hoosier Pass on the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado during his cross-country bike ride.

STATE COLLEGE — From the coast of Virginia to the rocky shore of Astoria, Oregon, Michael Canich pedaled his way across the country on his trusty bike this summer.

Starting on May 1, Canich rode through 10 states over a 94-day period. He pedaled over mountains, across the prairies and through the desert. He rode through headwinds that slowed him down and crosswinds that threatened to knock him over. He biked in the rain and in the stifling heat.

Some days on his 4,249-mile journey he traveled alone, and some days he rode with others who were out on the same quest as him. He slept at campsites, in the back of churches and at other friendly spots on the way.

Along his journey, he was bitten by a dog, had to take a 10-day break because he contracted COVID-19 and suffered through a blood clot, but he still managed to finish by Aug. 2. Through it all, he met many people who were quick to offer support as he rolled his way from coast to coast.

After he finished, he took a few days' rest before he got back in the saddle and biked up to Seattle to visit friends — because what is another 233 miles after you already biked across the continental United States? Then, he hopped on a train to head back home to State College on Aug. 9, his 74th birthday.

A retired geologist, Canich had long been a mountain bike enthusiast. He became interested in road touring

one day while taking a ride out to Tadpole Road and noticing a hawk sitting on a tree.

“I said, boy, at 10 miles per hour, I saw that. In a car, I would never see that,” Canich said. After that he became addicted to touring the countryside on his bike. He completed his first long bike trip five years ago, riding 615 miles from his home to Washington, D.C., and back. Then he set his sights on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail.

The trail was first ridden in honor of the nation’s bicentennial in 1976, when 4,000 cyclists set off for the ride. Every year since then, intrepid riders tackle the trail to get a more intimate feeling of the country than when traveling in the car, and to have the adventure of a lifetime. Riders can start from either side of the country.

Detailed maps published by the Adventure Cycling Route Network Route <<https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/adventure-cycling-route-network/>> key riders into cafes, restaurants and overnight accommodations that are available along the way. Blogs and social media accounts keep people posted on trail conditions and the status of riders.

“Every part of the country has its own uniqueness. Whether it is the food that you are getting someplace or the scenery or the people you meet, it is just phenomenal. There are so many good people in this world,” Canich said. “At 10 miles per hour, you get to see things that other people don’t see, and things happen to you. There were probably 500 people out on the trail, going in different directions, east and west, and we all had a different experience.”

Along the trail, Canich met many people who offered him some support, such as a woman who offered him a bottle of water on an especially warm day, a couple who shared a beer with him on the porch during a rainstorm and a kind man who drove him to the hospital when his leg started hurting.

Turns out he was suffering from a blood clot, but luckily the doctors told him it was safe to continue his trip. After a few days he was on the road again.

In Colorado, he had planned to stop and visit his son for a few days, but a positive COVID test turned his three-day layover into a 10-day break. Fortunately, he had mild symptoms and was able to spend the downtime with his son.

Leading up to the trip, Canich trained as much as he could, but the icy winter limited him. Because of this, he said, he struggled with cramps early on. After the second day on the trip, he passed an Amtrak sign. He thought about catching a train home, but he decided to “keep on going.”

After this decisive moment, he met another rider and they stuck together for a few days. The company helped Canich persevere, he said. Over time he learned to incorporate electrolytes into his diet to help with his cramping, and his legs grew stronger each day.

“After that I was kind of over the hump,” Canich said.

Averaging more than 55 miles per day on his trip (not counting rest days), Canich figures he was burning 3,000 calories a day just from riding.

“You can’t eat that many calories. We tried. I ate more junk food than you could shake a stick at, but I still lost a good bit (of weight),” Canich said. “So, it is a great diet.”

Safety was always on his mind during the ride, and he wore bright colors on the road.

A helmet with a mirror allowed him to see behind him like a rearview mirror in the car. Canich generated electricity through pedaling in order to power lights on his bike and to keep his cell phone charged.

He credits the team at Freeze Thaw Cycles <<https://freezethaw.com/>> in State College for getting him set up with a bike and gear that made his ride as smooth as possible.

Saddlebags balanced on each side of his bike held camping gear, clothing and food.

He estimates his bike weighed 80 to 90 pounds with everything strapped on. Each day, he had to unload, set up camp and do it over again in the morning.

“It is really satisfying to get up in the morning, when you have your tent and everything scattered all over, and you get into these four little bags and that is your life for 90 days,” Canich said.

By the end of the trip, he said he looked like Santa Claus. His proud granddaughters were glad to help cut his hair and trim his beard when he got home. He said he couldn’t have made the trip without the support of his family.

Canich encourages others who are interested in their own TransAmerica adventure to do some research online and visit local stores to get advice.

“If you like adventure, this is the greatest adventure you will ever take,” said Canich. “And if you want to see the United States ... you see cowboy on his horse driving the cows in Kansas, and you see meadowlark on the limestone chirping. You see it all.”

This story appears in the Aug. 25-31 edition of The Centre County Gazette.

<https://www.statecollege.com/centre-county-gazette/>
<https://www.statecollege.com/articles/community/state-college-man-bikes-across-america/>

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

FOR SALE - 71 flats of various minerals - Pennsylvania, Western states (Oregon, Colorado, Utah), Fossils, German minerals, Quartz xls (various localities), Tennessee, New England, and more, at very reasonable prices! I've completed a 5-year re-organization of the collection and it's time to let the excess go: thumbnails to medium size specimens, all labeled as to location (I am a stickler to exact location!). The majority are \$5 and under with prices topping out at \$20, or mix and match for \$40 per flat. Gold specimens are all thumbnails - \$5 to \$40. Mineral List can be provided. The minerals are currently at my residence located 20 or so miles east of Pittsburgh. Contact Frank Lotito: (724) 840-2179 or flotito1@verizon.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

See other show calendar links on our web site.

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 , 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

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

Mar. 23-24, 2024: Gem & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road, Wysox, PA 18854. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://www.chehannarocks.com/show.html>

June 1, 2024: Spring Mineralfest, by Penna. Earth Sciences Assoc. Macungie, PA. Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

Geo-Sudoku Solution

O	N	T	S	L	P	H	A	M
H	L	S	A	M	N	O	P	T
A	P	M	T	O	H	N	L	S
T	S	L	H	A	M	P	N	O
P	H	A	N	T	O	M	S	L
N	M	O	P	S	L	T	H	A
S	A	P	O	H	T	L	M	N
L	T	H	M	N	S	A	O	P
M	O	N	L	P	A	S	T	H

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 to the next meeting.

We want to welcome you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

mailing address:
 Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc.
 c/o S. Bingham, Treasurer
 145 Goddard Cir.
 Penna. Furnace PA 16865

SOCIETY OFFICERS

David Glick (President) 814-810-2116 (h)
 e-mail: xidg@verizon.net
 Dr. Bob Altamura (Vice-President) 814-234-5011 (h)
 e-mail: raltamura@comcast.net
 Dr. Barry Scheetz (Secretary) 814-360-8241 (cell)
 e-mail: se6@psu.edu
 Stuart Bingham (Treasurer)
 e-mail: sebing145@comcast.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Field Trips: Dale Kephart
 e-mail: beckdale2@comcast.net
 Junior Rockhounds: Dr. Andrew Sicree
 814-867-6263 (h) e-mail: aas132@psu.edu
 Membership Chair: David Glick (see above)
 Programs: Dr. Duff Gold 865-7261(o), 238-3377(h)
 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, 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