

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

Editor (see back page):

October, 2024

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

David C. Glick

October 16th meeting,

IN PERSON at BOAL HALL

A FOSSIL presentation on

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY:

Incognitum, Mastodon, Frankenstein! The rocky relationship between science and the American Mastodon

by

Dr. Chris Widga, Director

Penn State Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum

Our October 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.

7:00 to 7:45 p.m.: Social "hour," refreshments

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

Annual Meeting & Elections

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.

-Editor

The American Mastodon, as a concept and an organism, has deep roots in the science of paleontology and our national identity. This presentation will explore the importance of this iconic animal to the founding fathers and the impact of new science on our understanding of America's first well-known megaherbivore.

Please attend our October 16th meeting to see this presentation!.

ATTENDING THE OCTOBER 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!

DUES are DUE

David Glick, NMS Membership Chair

Our new membership year starts on November 1. For NMS members who have not yet renewed, a dues form is included with this issue, either on paper or electronically. The form is also available on the web at <<http://www.nittanymineral.org/mem.htm>>. Feel free to save a stamp and bring your form and dues to the October meeting. **OR**, use the PayPal connection on our web site which has been updated for the new membership year (and email the dues form). The annual dues are: \$25 regular membership; \$18 seniors 65 years+; family \$35; students \$10. Your dues are used for programs and speakers, meeting hall rental, refreshments, outreach and educational activities, Bulletins, and mailing expenses. We look forward to your continuing membership!

OFFICIAL NOTICE: Annual Meeting and Elections in October

by David Glick, NMS President

The October 16th meeting, to be held at Boal Hall in Boalsburg, will be the **Annual Meeting of the Corporation**. Business will include election of officers. As announced at the September meeting, the incumbent officers will stand for re-election:

President	David Glick
Vice President	Bob Altamura
Treasurer	Stuart Bingham
Secretary	Barry Scheetz

The Board truly needs **additional volunteers** to get involved with running the Society, providing **new energy and fresh thinking** and some new names on the ballot in the future. Newcomers could spend some time on committees and attending Board meetings before stepping into elected office. Please consider volunteering!

**More on Earth Science Week -
see pages 4-5**

NMS Fall Schedule

November 20: Reconsidering the Ordovician, Ancient Landscapes, and the Elusively Enigmatic Juniata Formation in Central Pennsylvania, by Dr. Jesse D. Thornburg, Temple University

December 18: Holiday Dinner at Quaker Steak & Lube restaurant. We will continue our past tradition where **members and NMS can have space on a table at the dinner to sell** minerals / rocks / fossils / carved gems / jewelry / rock crafts. Sellers need to collect PA sales tax. NMS will charge a commission fee at 10% of the vendor's pre-tax sales. NMS will also have items for sale. NMS members who are interested in selling should contact Bob Altamura (raltamura@comcast.net or 814-234-5011) to secure a space.

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters ABGLOPRTU. One row or column spells a place which has some green minerals. If you've read all of 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.

		L	G			O		T
B					U	L		
	A	P			T			
	O							
L		A		O		G		U
		U	B				O	R
R		T		G	O		A	L
		B	U	T	L			
G				B		T		P

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 <<https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>> October Newsletter has a variety of articles. Planning for the AFMS 2025 joint convention with EFMLS in Hickory, NC, is underway, with an introduction to the state. The safety article (reprinted on page 6 of this Bulletin) notes the evidence that participating in activities with a group benefits our health. Submissions for the New Programs Competition are invited.

The Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> October Newsletter provides some details including lodging for the EFMLS/AFMS Convention, March 27-31, 2025, in Hickory, NC. Ellery Borow writes about keeping track of a club's history (reprinted on page 6 of this Bulletin). Donations are invited for the AFMS Scholarship Fund. The President's letter reviews several different lines of recent history. *-Editor*

LATE-BREAKING BOOK NEWS:

The Mines and Minerals of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, by Ronald A Sloto

Ron Sloto's new book on Delaware County, Pennsylvania, is now available from Amazon.com. It has 284 pages and includes over 300 color photographs. It joins Ron's other books on southeastern Pennsylvania mines and minerals which cover Berks, Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties. *-Editor*

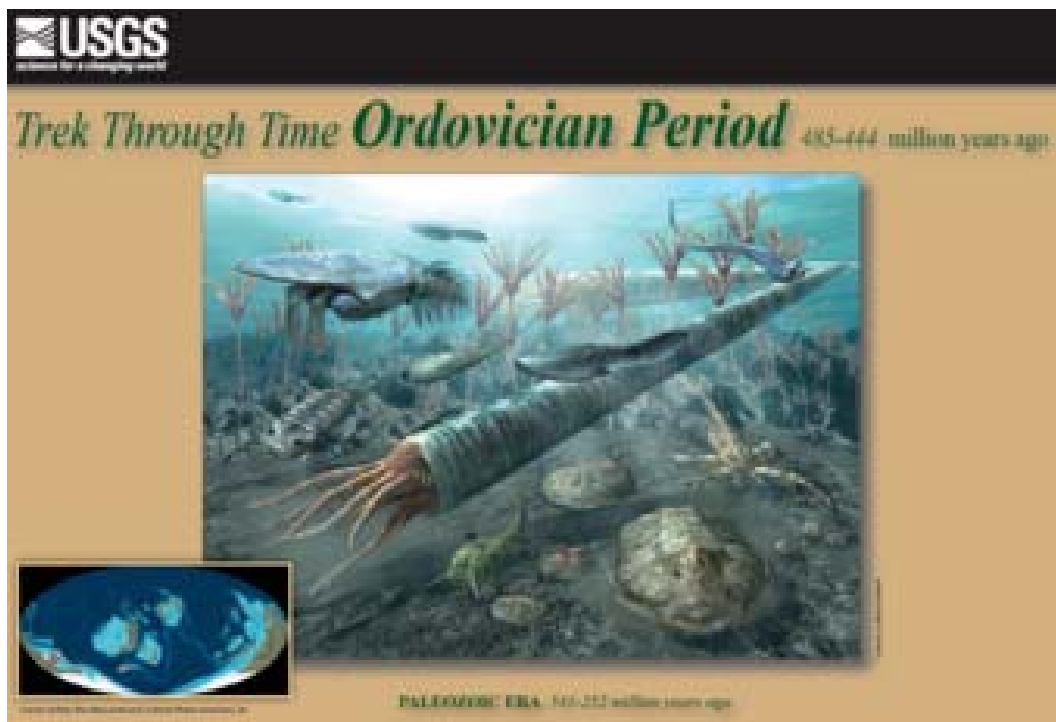
Jim Stauffer Collection Auction

As noted last month, avid collector James D. Stauffer passed away in March (see obituary at <<https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com/obituary/james-d-stauffer/>>). The impressive collection assembled through his life will be sold at auction on Saturday and Sunday, **October 12 and 13**, by Boltz Auction Company in Lancaster. It's both online and in person. See the story at <https://www.jimstaufferocks.net/> and scroll down on that page to see the good specimen photos. Follow the HiBid links there to see all of the lots for both days. See also Boltz Auction Co <https://www.boltzauctions.com/index.html> *-Editor*

Green Pennsylvania Minerals...

Is the theme of the 2024 FM-PA Symposium (see below), in keeping with the 43rd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium (February 2025) theme: Shades of Green: From apatites to zeunerites – more than just emeralds. FM-PA now has a full slate of six talks, as listed in the flyer below. NMS's own Dr. Bob Altamura will speak on serpentine minerals. In addition to those listed, Dr. Kyle Trostle will provide demonstrations of optical mineralogy tools and principles. The associated Show has free admission for everyone.

-Editor



Artist's rendition of marine life in the Ordovician Period. Marine life was abundant and diverse. An illustration from US Geological Survey's web pages for National Fossil Day, <https://www.usgs.gov/youth-and-education-in-science/paleozoic> See more on page 4.

USGS image, public domain.

Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN FM-PA Annual Symposium and MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW



Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 9, 2024 - Field Trip Nov. 10

Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

SECOND ANNUAL MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW

SHOW SATURDAY 8:30 - 6:00 ADMISSION FREE TO ALL

30+ TABLES OF SELECTED VENDORS

SYMPOSIUM for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$ 15.00 Members \$10.00 Students free
Friday evening Nov. 8: Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

Saturday Nov. 9: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** concentrating on **Green Pennsylvania Minerals, including:**

Beryls of Pennsylvania - by Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University

Pyromorphite in Pennsylvania - by Ross Elliott, PG, Delaware DNREC

Wavellite at Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pennsylvania - by Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

Serpentine minerals of the East Coast & Pennsylvania - by Dr. Robert Altamura, PG

Green Diopside in New York - by Tomer Shapira

Green Rocks of Northwest Portugal - Ultramafics - by Dr. Ryan Kerrigan, UP-J

Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors

Professional Geologists: Six Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 10 Mt. Pleasant Mills Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants.

Visit our web site for details, registration form, changes and updates: www.rasloto.com/FM

Earth Science Week: Celebrate “Earth Science Everywhere” October 13-19, 2024

from <https://www.earthsciweek.org/>

The American Geosciences Institute organizes Earth Science Week every October. Toolkits - collections of print materials - are available. There will be a webinar each day of the week, and last year's webinars are available. There are contests for photographs, video, visual arts, and essays. **See the website** for all of this and more.

“Earth Science Week is more than an event; it’s a global movement towards understanding and cherishing our planet. This initiative ignites curiosity and fosters appreciation for the Earth sciences. It brings to light the intricate connections between geoscience and our daily lives. With a plethora of educational activities, resources, and events, Earth Science Week is a vibrant call to action for individuals of every age and background. It’s an invitation to dive into the fascinating world of Earth’s processes, explore the bounty of natural resources, and discuss the pivotal role of geosciences in addressing critical societal challenges. This initiative doesn’t just educate; it inspires a lifelong passion for Earth science and instills a deep sense of stewardship for our planet and its future.”

“Every October, this enthusiasm comes alive as community groups, educators, and citizens around the globe host an array of celebratory events.”

To sign up for **webinars**:
<https://www.earthsciweek.org/webinars/>



Fluorite from Southern Illinois. *USGS - public domain*. From Mapping a Hidden Volcanic Terrane under America’s Heartland, <https://www.usgs.gov/news/featured-story/mineral-science-reaches-new-heights>

What is Earth Science Week? / Earth Science Week Events

from <https://www.usgs.gov/youth-and-education-in-science/earth-science-week-usgs> which has many links to additional, well-illustrated pages.

Earth Science Week is the second week in October annually, 13th-19th this year . Each year there is a new theme.

The USGS partners with AGI to support geoscience literacy by distributing Earth Science Week Teacher’s Toolkits, which contain K-12 educational resources from a broad range of partners, including USGS. Many Earth Science Week activities are available online and on social media. Have fun learning about Earth, our one and only home!

Earth Science Week Events

Sunday: International Earthcache Day

An EarthCache is similar to a geocache, and is a special place where people can learn about unique, geological features. EarthCache pages include a set of educational notes along with coordinates.

Monday: Minerals Day

Minerals Day is all about raising awareness of and appreciation for minerals and mineralogy! A mineral is a naturally occurring, inorganic solid with a distinct chemical composition (or range of compositions) and specific physical properties. There are thousands of different kinds of minerals, so picking a favorite is challenging. Quartz is a common mineral that comes in many different colors, is harder than glass, and is made up of the two most abundant elements in Earth's crust (silicon and oxygen). As part of Earth Science Week 2020, USGS scientist Shannon Mahan talked about how she studies minerals in the video, "May the Quartz be With You."

To learn more about USGS work with minerals, visit the Energy and Minerals Mission Area, the Mineral Resources Program, and the National Minerals Information Center. Did you know that minerals can even be mapped from hundreds of feet above Earth's surface? Learn more about the USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) and watch the Earth Science Week (AGI) webinar, "The Global Supply of Critical Minerals: Assessing and Tracking Critical Mineral Commodities" by USGS scientist Nedal Nassar.

Tuesday: Earth Observation Day & No Child Left Inside Day

Learn all about the USGS Landsat Program here. USGS, along with NASA and other agencies, partners with AmericaView to create lesson plans and other educational resources for working with Landsat satellite imagery, which are mostly targeted to grades 6-12. Downloads of the AmericaView board game, "Factory Earth: Making Products from Earth Materials" are available in English and Spanish and the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center's outreach and education website can be found here.

No Child Left Inside Day encourages students to go outside and research the Earth outside, like a professional geoscientist. Can you get outside today and find something new about Earth?

Wednesday: National Fossil Day

Fossils are the remains of prehistoric life. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks because the other two rock types form when rocks either cool from molten

material (igneous rocks) or change due to increases in heat and/or pressure (metamorphic rocks). National Fossil Day promotes the understanding and appreciation of fossils. If you're near Washington DC, you're welcome to visit the Trek Through Time, an interpretive, paved walking path through the trees behind the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia. Bring your imagination as you walk through the past ~540 million years on Earth and enjoy learning about what Earth (and Virginia) were like during the Phanerozoic.

Thursday: Geoscience is for Everyone Day

What inspires you about the Earth? What can you do to help young people from underrepresented communities explore exciting careers in the geosciences?

Friday: Geologic Map Day

Why are geologic maps important, and how are they used? Geologic Map Day promotes awareness and understanding of geologic maps and is hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey, Association of American State Geologists, National Park Service, Geological Society of America, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in partnership with AGI. Want to know what rocks are beneath your feet? Need ideas for Geologic Map Day? You can learn all about geologic maps with the National Geologic Map Database. Then, watch a recording of a public lecture about the National Geologic Map Database (Aug. 2022) and download a USGS geologic map of North America, known as the Tapestry of Time and Terrain.

Did you know that the USGS-NASA Planetary Mapping Program makes geologic maps of other planets and moons? Explore interactive geologic maps here and find a color-by-number activity of the Perseverance Landing site (Jezero Crater on Mars) here.

Knowing what types of rocks are under your feet is important for the understanding of natural hazard risks, resource identification, exploration, infrastructure planning, and more. EDMAP is part of the National Cooperative Geologic Program; follow the link for more information.

Saturday: International Archaeology Day

Hosted by the Archaeological Institute of America, this event is a celebration of archaeology and discovery. ✨

Safety in Numbers

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

from AFMS News, Vol. 77, No. 7 — October 2024



Safety is not just a list of incidents, reports to write, mathematical statistics, or numbers. Safety is not just a list of skill sets we encourage people to learn. While there are many skill sets in our shared hobby, such as first aid attention, show safety, field trip care, lapidary shop guidelines, safety with driving

to our many activities, as well as a myriad of associated safety concerns, one big concern is rarely mentioned, that of our overall health and well-being. Where would we be in our hobby without our overall health and well-being?

A growing body of evidence indicates that just by participating in our hobby we generally experience various combinations of the following:

- Lower levels of stress
- Increased amounts of healthy physical activity
- Improved memory
- Motor skill and eye/hand coordination improvements
- Improvements to our emotional health

All that sounds like a pretty good return just for participating in our hobby.

Other healthful aspects of our hobby include meetings, field trips, picnics, swaps and shows. Why are such activities healthy? Glad you asked. Our in-person activities are vital to the social needs of our being human. We may broaden our horizons and improve our knowledge and understanding of our hobby with great programs, and we may fill our bellies with fine feasts at a great club picnic, but we very much improve our health and well-being when we participate with the social aspects of in-person activity, with our friendships in the hobby.

Far be it for this report to merely be a plea to increase the number of members attending a meeting. It is a plea however, for those who are able, to attend meetings, picnics, shows, and field trips in order that they may benefit from the most human things of sharing smiles, handshakes, warm greetings, and hugs. In the process of that in-person time one experiences the benefit of released feel-good endorphins in the brain, lower cortisol levels (stress associated chemistry), lower blood pressure, and a healthier cardio/vascular system.

Studies indicate our enjoyable hobby time helps with our cognitive abilities, improves our memory, keeps us exercised (with improvement to bone density) , and likely improves the quality and longevity of our lives. And, on top of all that, it is likely we also experience better sleep, less depression, lower stress levels, less loneliness (another serious and under-appreciated issue), increased problem solving skills, greater feelings of well-being, and have better opportunities to tell bad jokes. What is not to like about all that?

Attending meetings can be good for one's health.

On the flip side, there are those who say that virtual attendance (such as via Zoom) at club events will be the future of the hobby. Understandably, there are times and places where Zoom meetings are advantageous, although Zoom will not replace a hug, or improve one's bone density.

In-person club activity is no health cure-all, but the evidence of in-person health aspects are clear. Hope you can attend an in-person club event soon, for your health safety, because your health safety matters.

It's About Time

by Ellery Borow

from EFMLS News, Vol. 71, No. 10 — October 2024

Rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones are all about time, a time back in the history of our planet. Well, maybe not so much gemstones. It is likely Few people want to know how many millions of years ago a diamond, ruby, emerald, or sapphire formed deep in the Earth. But for rocks, minerals, and fossils years of history are important in the process of their formation. For fossils, layer upon layer upon layer of history are important to know.

In more recent terms, rock clubs have a history as well. History is, after all, what happened yesterday, last week, last year, or decades ago. Does your club have a history? Most certainly is does. For many clubs their history resides in the collective memories if its club members. Other club have a more formal history in the form of an archive of its newsletters and bulletins.

One could question why a club's history is important. Just as it is important to know the history of when tornado season comes, or hurricane season, or when sea turtles hatch, or penguins gather so it is with a club's history. Clubs need their history of what worked at past shows, which meeting programs were well attended, which cupcakes sold best at the club's food sale fund

Tuscarora Lapidary Society's 55th Annual **GEMARAMA**

Gem & Jewelry Show

Saturday Nov. 2
10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday Nov. 3
10 AM - 5PM

Admission \$6.00
Child (under 12) \$1

Shop Early for the Holidays

Exhibits • Demonstrations • Dealers
Children's Activities

Discount Coupons & Purchase Tickets
www.lapidary.org/gemarama

HALL D
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
100 Station Avenue
OAKS, PA 19456

raiser, or which club activities garnered the most new members. History is important. So how does your club keep its history?

What does your club keep and know of its history? Is the only club history kept found within the collective memory of its members? Suppose the long-time field trip committee chair departs the club. What if that person's memory was the only record the club had of its field trips for the last several years. Who else would remember all those years of trips, who were the contact persons for permission to visit the mines, what minerals were found by the club members, how well attended was each trip? What records are important for a club's use?

There are important records for a club to keep. Important records can be legal documents such as articles of incorporation, records of not-for-profit status, yearly tax records, club constitution and bylaws, and other legal documents. Records of club civic activity, show success, field trips, picnics, lists of program speakers, membership lists, list of past presidents (as well as other officers and committee persons), or any of numerous other possible historically significant record all have value to a club. Simply keeping archives of newsletters and bulletins reflects only a portion of a club's history.

2nd Annual Mount Bethel Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show

Oct. 28 & 29, 2023 - Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4
Admission: \$5 per person. Kids under 12 FREE!

At the Mount Bethel Firehouse. GPS: 2341 N. Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel, Pa. (Rt. 611 South) Only 2 miles from NJ RT. 46/80/94 JCT!

FREE Parking! Food & Drinks! Giveaways!

COME AND SEE THE COLORS OF EARTH'S AMAZING TREASURES!
See Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, Meteorites, Stones, and MUCH MORE!!

\$1 OFF Admission with this flyer!!

Some things to note are not so much of a practical history, but of a philosophical history. Why did your club form? Who were its leaders? What was on the mind of its founding members when creating your club? When did your club organize? What helped your club grow? What helped form the focus of your club to rock, minerals, fossils, lapidary, or jewelry activity? There are many such questions to ask yet answers may not be found in club newsletters. Answers to such questions may only reside in the memory of a club's founding members. If there are founding members still around a club might find it interesting to ask such members these questions. And do so before it is too late.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

<https://efmls.org/events/>

See other show calendar links on our web site.

October 19-20, 2024: Mount Bethel Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Mt Bethel Firehouse, 2341 Route 611, Mount Bethel, PA 18343 (2 miles from 80/46 junction in NJ). Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4. See p. 7.

Oct. 26, 2024: South Mountain Rock Swap & Sale, by Franklin County R&M Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, west of Arendtsville PA on PA Route 234. Sat. Only, 8-3. See Facebook Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club

Oct. 26, 2024: Ultravioletation Fluorescent-only Mineral Show, by R&M Club of Lower Bucks County. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. Sat. only, 9-4.

Nov. 2-3, 2024: Gemarama Annual Show, by Tuscarora Lapidary Society. Hall D at Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave, Oaks, PA. Sat. 10-6 / Sun. 10-5. <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

Nov. 9-10, 2024: Annual Symposium & Field Trip and 2nd Annual Show, by Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter. See p. 3. and <https://rasloto.com/FM/>

Geo-Sudoku Solution

U	R	L	G	A	B	O	P	T
B	T	G	O	P	U	L	R	A
O	A	P	L	R	T	U	B	G
P	O	R	T	U	G	A	L	B
L	B	A	R	O	P	G	T	U
T	G	U	B	L	A	P	O	R
R	U	T	P	G	O	B	A	L
A	P	B	U	T	L	R	G	O
G	L	O	A	B	R	T	U	P



Pyromorphite.
 Locality: Wheatley Mines, Phoenixville Mining District, Schuylkill Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA (Locality at mindat.org) Size: thumbnail, 2.7 x 2.5 x 1.7 cm An outstanding Wheatley pyro from this classic US locality, surely dating to the late 1800s when crystals of such robust form were

found. For a thumb, it's the best I have seen from here. But moreover, it's the best quality you could get, in any size, for the locality. File: Pyromorphite-tt35b.jpg Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com - CC-BY-SA-3.0

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

mailing address:

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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
 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