

Nittany Mineralogical Society Bulletin

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

April, 2025

Visit our web site: www.nittanymineral.org

Editor (see back page):

David C. Glick

April 16th meeting:

Filling in the Fossil Coloring Book

Dr. Jennifer Peteya
Assistant Professor, Biology Department
Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg

AT CENTRE LIFELINK

Our April meeting will be held Wednesday the 16th at Centre LifeLink, 125 Puddintown Road, State College, PA 16801. 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,
about 8:00 p.m.: featured program

The event has free admission and free parking at the door, and is open to all; **parents/guardians must provide supervision of minors.**

Bring your friends and share an interesting evening. -Editor

Since the discovery of fossils, scientists never thought it would be possible to reconstruct the original colors of the animals that left them behind millions of years ago. However, the discovery of melanosomes - organelles that house the ubiquitous pigment melanin - in a fossilized bird feather in 2008 led to a boom in fossil color research. Based on similarities between fossilized melanosomes and those from modern bird feathers and mammal hair, we can confidently reconstruct the melanin-based color of many extinct dinosaurs and other animals. We have also begun finding preserved pigments in the fossil record using various chemical techniques, allowing us to begin reconstructing their evolutionary history. For this talk, I will be discussing some of the fascinating discoveries that have blossomed from the exciting new field of Paleocolor as well as some new research coming from my lab at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Bloomsburg in the near future.

ATTENDING THE APRIL 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!

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS MEETING

April 23

The final Junior Rockhounds meeting of the current series will be held at 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at Boal Hall. They are best for students in 3rd through 8th grades, WITH their parents.

The meetings have a different topic each time, such as minerals, fossils, gemstones, geology, and dinosaurs. They include fun hands-on activities and discussions with an expert. Parents stay with their children, and may get a lot out of the meetings too! You don't have to be a member to attend; please come out and see what it's all about. See <http://www.nittanymineral.org/juniors.htm>

Any additional meetings, or family-oriented field trips, will be announced on the web site and on our children-oriented email list. You can sign up by sending an email to [<nittanymineral.org@gmail.com>](mailto:nittanymineral.org@gmail.com).

MINERALS JUNIOR EDUCATION DAY

Our 27th Junior Ed Day took place smoothly and successfully on April 5; see the article on page 4.



Vertebrate fossil station
M. Kowalczyk photos



Invertebrate fossil station

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>> April newsletter has lots of interesting items, as usual. Public relations, including online platforms useful for nonprofits, are discussed. The safety article discusses how a variety of factors can contribute to an accident or safety incident. Rockhounds of the Year from several clubs are presented. The history article covers Baltimore Mineral Society's Micromount Symposium, specifically the 11th one in 1967. There's news on juniors programs; see below about the latest *Crack the News* issue. Cheryl Neary's article takes us on a trip starting in the Appalachians, site of this year's AFMS Convention in March in North Carolina, heading for next year's, in St. Charles, Illinois, May 23-24, 2026. 2025 Bulletin Editors Contest results are presented.

The Eastern Federation's <<https://efmls.org/>> April Newsletter includes president Andrew "Rockhound's" report on the recent EFMLS/AFMS Convention in North Carolina, reprinted on page 3. The EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in Little Switzerland, North Carolina, is May 12-18; see www.efmls.org/wildacres - Editor

Crack the News:

The AFMS Newsletter for Kids & Teens

by Dennis Gertenbach, Editor, *Crack the News*
from AFMS Newsletter April 2025, vol. 78 no. 3

The latest edition of *Crack the News*, the AFMS newsletter written by kids and teens for kids and teens, was introduced at the AFMS Convention in Hickory, North Carolina, last month. It's now available at <<https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>>. In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about gold panning in California, hunting for pyrite in Oregon, and collecting Mazon Creek fossils in Illinois. They also wrote about their favorite rocks and minerals, including pyrite, dyed agate, and K2. (Yes, there's a rock named after the second highest mountain on Earth.) Plus, you can read about Tully Monsters. It's wonderful to see the variety of rockhounding interests our juniors have.

Geo-Sudoku

by David Glick

The puzzle below contains the letters ABEILMORT. One row or column spells a place for a micromounting symposium. 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.

		I	B		L	R		A
		O				L		B
L								T
	E		L					
			I	B	T		L	M
I		B			R		T	O
O	M			L		T		
R				A	O	M		L

Announcements from PSU Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum & Art Gallery

For the Museum's latest (April-June '25) newsletter, scroll down at
<<https://museum.ems.psu.edu/about>>.

Announcements include:

- **Spring Night at the Museums, May 1st, 4-8 pm.**
This free event will be on University Park campus and offers extended hours and access to various museums across campus. See the list including the EMS Museum in the Newsletter.
- **EMS Museum Gallery Open for Summer Festivals:**
State College Pride on June 7, and
Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, July 9-13.
- **New Exhibit:**
The Work of Art: WPA Art from the Steidle Collection of American Industrial Art
This collaborative exhibit explores the efforts by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression to create "art for the millions."
- **Several relatively new ongoing exhibits.** - Editor



EFMLS President's Message

from
Andrew Rockhound

**EFMLS News v. 72 no. 4
April 2025**

Happy April, Everyone!

As I write this with my new AFMS pen, I am traveling north back to Pennsylvania after an amazing AFMS & 75th EFMLS Convention in Hickory NC! The Catawba Valley Club, with a massive 3-day show, provided excellent accommodations for all the meetings and events. We thank Show Chair Dean Russell for going above and beyond throughout the event with exciting energy and enthusiasm! Thanks Dean!

During my address to all the American Federations at Thursday's AFMS meeting I highlighted my administration's strategy "Future Focused, Rockhound Focused", including our experimental new "Geology Club", built to evolve and test new "Club-Rockhound" engagement strategies, club administration techniques and more. The goal being to provide guidance on successes to every club across our federation and beyond to the AFMS. Response to my comments during this address was quite positive, as people were very interested in our ideas and successes.

Friday evening, we elected our officers and it is my honor to welcome 2 new faces to the EFMLS leadership, former Syracuse club president John Sweeney as 2nd VP and Tina Kruger as our secretary! Welcome, both of you!

Saturday started off with the BEAC editor awards, during which our very own newsletter editor Dan Imel was inducted into the Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame! Congrats Dan! It was also a special moment for me as my first newsletter article ever, won a 3rd place EFMLS trophy and placed 16th overall in the AFMS. We did it, Lee Levesque III!!!!

That afternoon the EFMLS annual auction brought in about \$1,200! Thank you to all the bidders, and those who donated items!

The convention wrapped up that evening with the installation of the officers, and the unveiling of the new 75th Anniversary EFMLS gavel, presented to me by 2nd VP Matt Charsky. Former President Ellery Borow is very excited to make a custom wood case for it with his woodworking skills!

Throughout the weekend our volunteers were amazing, from Matt Charsky's mineral giveaways to Cheryl Neary keeping me and everyone else in line, we thank everyone involved!

I filmed all day Saturday, from sun up till sun down - "A Day In The Life Of An EFMLS President At The Convention". A behind the scenes look at the day! Coming soon to Facebook & YouTube, along with a Dirtman Report and more from "Digging with Daniel Coleman" when I had free moments! (Hint, the most gold I have ever panned, while pulling crystals out of my pan as well!)

Keep up with everything I am doing, follow Andrew Rockhound on Facebook/Instagram and come along on the adventure!

Happy Easter everyone!

Minerals Junior Ed Day 2025

photos by Moriah Kowalczyk



Native Americans & Rocks station



Vertebrate fossil station



Lapidary station

Minerals Junior Education Day 2025

THANK YOU to ALL of those involved

NMS held our 27th annual Minerals Junior Education Day on April 5, thanks to organizer Frank Kowalczyk and many, many volunteers, donors, and attendees.

We had ten stations for the kids to visit, a booklet and specimens to take home, and a sales table; about 118 young students and many, many parents came through and had a good time.

We sincerely thank everyone involved! Many of our station organizers donated the giveaways for their stations, for which we are very grateful. Topics and organizers of the ten stations were:

Lapidary - Bob Altamura

Iron Ores & Furnaces - George Farrant

Invertebrate Fossils - Charles Miller Jr

Vertebrate Fossils - EMS Museum / MANTLE

Gold Panning - GPAA

Fluorescence - Stuart Bingham

Mineral & Materials Properties: Mica - Andrew Sicree

Glass Fibers - Emilee Fortier

Gems: Cat's-Eyes and Stars - Peter Heaney

Native Americans Used Rocks - Barry Scheetz

Caves & Karst - Lincoln Caverns

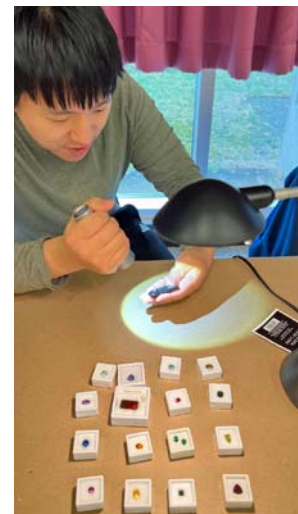
Other donors of giveaway and sale specimens included: Moriah Kowalczyk, Steve & Jackie Sywensky, Luke Laubscher (Creekside Rock & Gem, Bellefonte), Shirley Fonda, Frank Lotito, Betsy Suhey, Barbara Sincak, Duff Gold, Bob Carnein, Judith Bond, Michael Stickles, Louis Sabo Jr., Tim Holtz, Peggy Kendall, John 'Pen' Ambler, Jean Carpenter, Emily Olson, Estate of John Passaneau, Estate of Charlotte Smith, Skip Colflesh, Scott Snively.



Iron ores & ironmaking station



Gold panning



Gems: Cat's-Eyes & Stars



Minerals & materials properties station: Mica (above), Glass fibers (right).



Photos on this page by Moriah Kowalczyk.

30 Years Ago in NMS: from the
September 1995 NMS Bulletin,
by Dr. Andrew Sicree:

JUNIOR EDUCATION DAY SUCCESSFUL

The first Minerals and Materials Junior Education Day held on June 10th was a big success. About 150 children and parents took part in the Education Day sponsored by the Nittany Mineralogical Society and the Penn State Earth & Mineral Sciences Museum. All of our visitors really enjoyed the day and each of the kids was able to take home an egg carton or two full of specimens. Special thanks go to all those NitMinSoc members who contributed by donating specimens, helping with set-up, preparing food, or staffing tables throughout the day. Thanks also to Dr. Darrell Schlom and the grad students from the Penn State University Materials Sciences Department who ran the materials sciences tables. We even got coverage on the news! Members are already talking about conducting this event again next spring.

Connecticut Rock ID Challenge at February Meeting

from Dr. Barry Scheetz

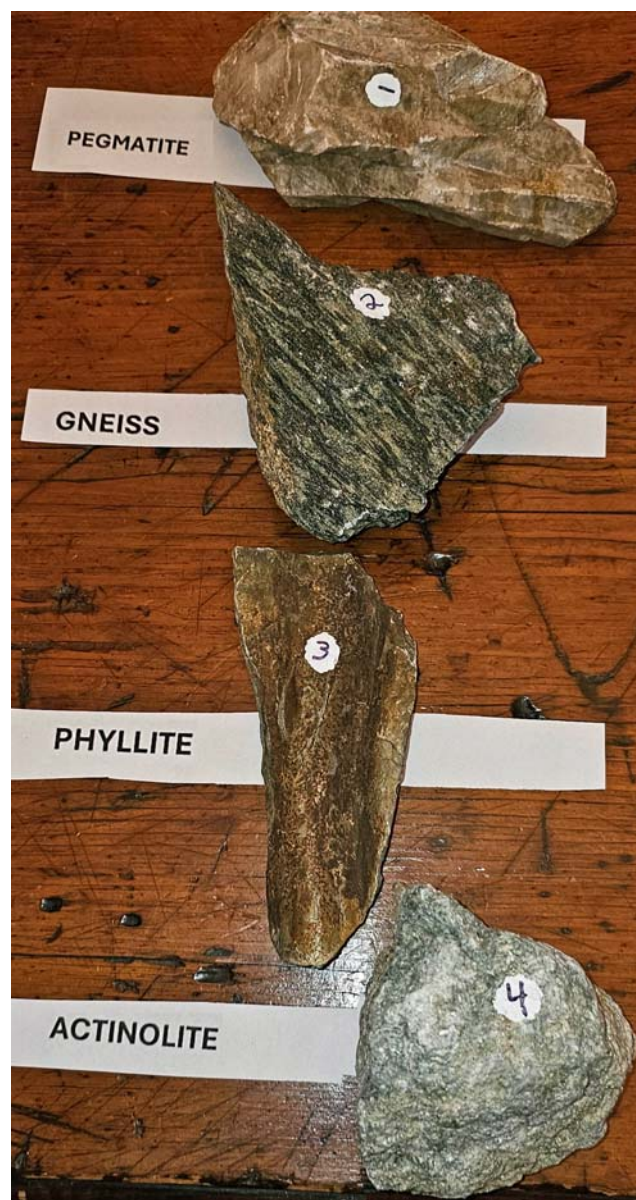
Many attendees at the February meeting took the rock ID quiz presented by Barry Scheetz. The answers are shown here.

Tiebreaker questions:

1.) Which of the above was mined in Connecticut specifically for the Manhattan Project? **Dolomite**

1a.) Name the metal they refined? **Magnesium**

Barry further comments: The company had 56 furnaces running to produce the Mg metal. Today they have two for the production of metallic calcium. They are the only one making calcium in the US.



We lost NMS member and supporter Joe Dague in 2022. A memorial article was delayed for a variety of reasons, but was finally written thanks to Ed Goebel's initiative. Minerals Junior Ed Day and other recent projects made me think of Joe and eventually realize that I reprinted the memorial article in the FM-PA Newsletter (Dec. 2023, rasloto.com/FM/) but not in the NMS Bulletin. With apologies, here it is. We miss you, Joe and Jeanne.

-Editor

**In Memory of
Joseph A. Dague, Jr.
(11/8/1943 - 12/7/2022)
by Ed Goebel**

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Philadelphia Mineralogical Society News
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About one year ago today, we lost a giant in the Pennsylvania mineral community, Joseph A. Dague, Jr. Joe was a very passionate man, and one of his greatest passions was mineral collecting, especially within the boundaries of Pennsylvania. Joe would say to friends, "You know, I love everything about minerals: collecting them, trimming them, cleaning them, studying them, discussing them with others. . . I love how they look, how they feel." Over the years, his expertise was called upon to assess and catalog the collections of private collectors (e.g., Bryon Brookmyer), prominent collections going to auction (e.g., Jay L. Lininger, Joseph Varady), and collections in colleges and universities (e.g., The University of Delaware). He was also called upon to curate mineral displays in private museums and educational institutions (e.g., Elizabethtown College). He gave mineralogical presentations to numerous clubs and organizations throughout the region. He collected, trimmed, and cleaned mineral specimens that he collected over several decades from all parts of Pennsylvania, and then he sold them to eager collectors at mineral shows, mostly in the central and southeastern regions of the state. He occasionally voiced frustration at what he perceived as a decline in the number of serious mineral collectors, but he never hesitated to offer his time and expertise to anyone who was sincerely interested. Although work took Joe as far east as Jenkintown, PA, and as far west as Austin, TX, he tended to gravitate back toward his roots in central Pennsylvania, spending much of his life in Clearfield, State College, and, most recently, near Chambersburg.

David Glick, President of the Nittany Mineralogical Society and Secretary/Newsletter Editor for Friends of Mineralogy – PA Chapter, shared that Joe and his wife,

Jeanne (who passed away before him in 2014), lived in State College when the Nittany Mineralogical Society began in 1994. Joe was the club's first Field Trip Chair. In addition to leading field trips, Joe provided mineral specimens for club use, for fundraising, and for meeting door prizes. Joe also started the club's longest-term project, Minerals Junior Education Day, which provides students in grades 1-8 with demonstrations, discussions, activities, and specimens to keep. Held every year except during the pandemic, it has served thousands of young students (and their parents); in fact, 2023 marked its 25th year – quite a Legacy Joe left behind!

Joe's good friend Robert C. Smith, II shared that Joe began collecting minerals and fossils in the Clearfield, PA area where he grew up. The best mineral to collect there was wurtzite, found in some siderite nodules. Wurtzite became his life-long favorite mineral, which he collected at several sites throughout Pennsylvania. Bob and other friends would offer wurtzite specimens to Joe from all over the world. Some pagoda-like specimens in his collection were incredible! Minerals structurally related to wurtzite, such as greenockite and jordanite, were also some of his favorites. Joe had an impressive collection of self-collected Pennsylvania minerals and perhaps the best Pennsylvania thumbnail collection ever. He was excellent at visual mineral and locality identifications, but he enjoyed meeting Bob with flats of mineral specimens to play "stump the chump" (i.e., trying to confuse Bob with difficult identifications). Many friends enjoyed that Joe was a gifted storyteller whose sagas did well on "fact check".



Joe Dague (left) with Bob Smith. *Photo by Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D. (Used with permission)*

Bob Smith, Steve Carter, and other friends are quick to point out that Joe's first and foremost passion in his life was his wife, Jeanne. Minerals were a distant second, but, before she passed in 2014, Joe was most happy when collecting minerals with Jeanne. They spent countless days hiking, enjoying nature, and collecting together, and Jeanne also developed a good field eye for minerals. In fact, it was Jeanne who first discovered kimberlite at a new locality in Indiana Co., PA. She was his collecting buddy at many localities. One such place was near Schuyler, Virginia, where the two of them enjoyed iced tea on the porch of a local store after field collecting. Muddy and wearing tattered old field-collecting clothes, they were mistaken for being part of the local Walton clan, but they just smiled and posed for tourists asking to take their picture.

Jeanne's passing in 2014 hit Joe hard, but he greatly appreciated the phone calls and visits from his friends, who rallied around him. He enjoyed discussing minerals with his good friend Steve Carter and viewing Steve's extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection. Joe spent more field time collecting with his good friend Bryon Brookmyer and looked forward to hearing Bryon's weekly field reports when Joe couldn't go along. In appreciation for Bryon's friendship, Joe prepared and submitted the information that led to Bryon being chosen for the prestigious Carnegie Mineralogical Award at the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2014.

I first met Joe about 18 years ago at the mineral auction for the late Jay L. Lininger (Jay had an extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection that was prepared and cataloged by Joe and Jeanne). Amazed and overwhelmed, I felt like "a kid in a candy store" until Joe helped to calm me down and narrow my focus for bidding. In 2/2017 Joe led me on a one-day tour of historical and active mineral collecting sites throughout Adams Co., PA. His knowledge and enthusiasm about the history, mineralogy, and geology of every site we visited was truly astounding – one of my most memorable days ever! Over the years, I have enjoyed getting to know him as a mineral collector but even more so as a person. He has generously provided knowledge, inspiration, wonderful mineral specimens, but, most of all, friendship. He will be missed dearly by all of us fortunate enough to consider him our friend. I have the feeling that Joe and Jeanne are looking upon us now, smiling hand-in-hand, and collecting together once again.



Joe Dague collecting at an old copper mine in his beloved Adams County, PA. *Ed Goebel photo.*

Joe Dague in the FM-PA Chapter

by David Glick

At FM-PA's 2009 Symposium at Franklin & Marshall College, Joe gave a presentation on 'An Informal Mineralogy of South Mountain.' He squeezed an impressive amount of information into his time slot - so much that many in the audience gave up on trying to take notes. The biographical sketch he provided at that time said that he and Jeanne had been collecting minerals for 42 years, and that he had been a member of FM-PA for about 20 years.



Specimen (field of view 35mm) and its label, sold by Joe Dague.

D. Glick photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

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

See other show calendar links on our web site.

Apr. 26, 2025: Spring Swap-Sell, Mitchell Park / Franklin Boro Park, Cork Hill Rd, Franklin NJ

Apr. 26-27, 2025: Annual Sterling Hill Pavilion Mineral-Fossil Sale / Garage Sale, Ogdensburg NJ.

May 3-4, 2025: World of Gems-Minerals Gemstones, Jewelry, Rock Mineral-Fossil Show, by Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, 312 Gernant's Church Rd., Leesport, PA 19533.

Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10 – 4

May 3-4, 2025: Treasures of the Earth Show, by Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, 1880 Hwy 315, Yatesville, PA 18640. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 7, 2025: Spring Mineralfest, by Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association (PESA). Macungie Memorial Park, 50 Poplar St., Macungie PA. Free; Sat. only, 8:30 -3:00. <https://www.mineralfest.com/>

Sept. 27-28, 2025: 59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, By Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 2801 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg PA 17110. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. www.rockandmineral.org

Geo-Sudoku Solution

E	T	I	B	M	L	R	O	A
M	R	O	A	T	I	L	E	B
L	B	A	O	R	E	I	M	T
T	E	M	L	O	A	B	I	R
A	O	R	I	B	T	E	L	M
I	L	B	M	E	R	A	T	O
O	M	E	R	L	B	T	A	I
R	I	T	E	A	O	M	B	L
B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E

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

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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:

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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