

**November 2025
 Symposium
 Another Success**

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Department held our 2025 Symposium and Field Trip for Mineral Collectors on November 8 and 9. The Symposium, with informative talks by knowledgeable speakers on minerals, geology and mining in Pennsylvania and beyond, was a hybrid meeting with attendance both in person and via Zoom. As usual, it included morning refreshments, a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts. The West Chester University Geology Museum and the Interactive Periodic Table, in connecting buildings, were available all day. FM-PA is grateful to everyone at WCU who made this venue work well and affordably for us.

The schedule covered 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with six speakers, the annual meeting, and breaks with time for refreshments, lunch, discussions, and visiting the silent auction and the geology museum. We weren't able to fill our schedule with talks on the Red, White, and Blue

Continued on page 2

**44th Friends of Mineralogy /
 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show /
 Mineralogical Society of America
Tucson Mineral Symposium
 Red, White and Blue –
 Celebrate the Spirit of Minerals
 Saturday, February 14, 2026
 at Tucson Convention Center
 or via Zoom
WATCH FOR NEWS**

FM-PA DUES ARE DUE

If our records show that you have not yet renewed for 2026, you will find a dues form attached or included with this newsletter. We appreciate your prompt renewal, with check and paper form, or by using the PayPal link and the PDF form at <https://rasloto.com/FM/join-fm-pa/>



Symposium, continued from page 1

Minerals theme as we originally hoped, but several of the presentations covered such minerals or colonial / revolutionary connections pertinent to the United States' 250th anniversary.

The topics and presenters were:

- Famous Mineral Localities of Delaware County, Pennsylvania - by Ronald A. Sloto, PG, West Chester University
- The Hogg Mine: A Tale of Two Machine Digs Revisited - by Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental
- Importance of lead mineralogy on the historic Pennsylvania frontier - by Dr. Ryan Mathur, Dr. Jonathan Burns, lots of students, and others, Juniata College
- The Fossils of the C&D Canal, Delaware: Late Cretaceous Life of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain - by Luke Jackson, West Chester University
- Amethyst from East Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania - by Anatoly Bitny
- Minerals of the Phoenixville Mining District - by Ross Elliott, PG, Delaware Mineralogical Society, and Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

In-person attendance was about 44; another 26 people attended via Zoom, for a total of 70. About 16 registered professional geologists and five students were among the attendees.

The silent auction and giveaway table, long-time favorites at our Symposia, were organized by Ron Sloto. Thanks to generous donations and active bidding, the auction did well this year.



Above: Display of "Minerals from Pennsylvania's Active Quarries" specimens donated by the late Skip Colflesh, in the WCU Geology Museum. Below: WCU Geology Museum. *D. Glick photos.*





Above: The Interactive Periodic Table takes up an entire wall. Below: A close-up including some elements important in mineralogy. *D. Glick photos*



Annual Meeting and Elections

A brief annual meeting of the membership of the chapter was held in the morning. This normally includes election of members of the Board of Directors, divided across a three-year cycle. However, it was noted that there were no incumbents or candidates in this year of the three-year cycle.

In a Zoom Board meeting on December 9, the Board of Directors elected the incumbents to serve another term in their offices; see the list on page 8.

Field Trip to Phoenixville Sites

Bill Stephens and Ross Elliott organized the Symposium field trip to the Phoenixville lead-zinc-copper mines (Brookdale and Southwest Chester) at Pickering Valley Golf Club on Sunday, November 9. A mini-excavator exposed some new material just before the event, but not as successfully as hoped. Still, the weather wasn't bad, there was a good turnout, and specimens were found. These dumps are known for pyromorphite, cerussite, wulfenite, galena, and drusy quartz.



Collecting on the Brookdale Mine dumps.

R. Sloto photograph



Collecting on the Southwest Chester County Mine dumps.
R. Sloto photograph



Collecting on the Brookdale Mine dumps.
R. Sloto photograph

FM Social Media Campaign

Members and others! Friend President Bill Stephens on Facebook for regular updates on FM National, FM-PA and all FM Chapters including Symposia and Events. We want to get the word out to everyone! The big event of the year, the FM / TGMS / MSA Symposium in Tucson, is coming up in February! See page 7.

The 11th Annual **NEW ENGLAND**

**MINERAL
CONFERENCE**

2026 **MAY 15-17**
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*Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference
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Pre-register by May 1, 2026 and save!
Dealers: Contact us!

<https://www.nemineral.org/annual-conference/>

EFMLS / AFMS Federation News

FM-PA Chapter 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 the monthly newsletters available on their web sites.

In the AFMS December Newsletter, new President Ronna Watkins reviews recent AFMS accomplishments (Uniform Rules updates, Public Relations initiatives, Juniors Committee programs, Convention events) and introduces herself. The Public Relations Chair writes about raising a club's profile through community action and involvement. Several Rockhound of the year Honorees are introduced. The safety article is on "T", saying, "Yes, we trust the safety efforts of others, but we also want to put the "T" in safety as being ultimately responsible for our own safety... and in helping with the safety of others." The New Programs Competition entry deadline of January 15 is noted. Historian Jennifer Haley requests cartoons and poems from vintage newsletters (and current ones too) for a collection she is compiling. There are Christmas rockhound poems and more in this issue!

The Eastern Federation's December Newsletter includes an article on the 2025 AFMS Scholarship Award winners in EFMLS at University of Maine - Orono, reprinted on page 3. An article on dinosaurs' communication, tactile sensitivity, parental care, etc., is reprinted on page 4; our children's common fascination with dinosaurs can be an entry point for encouraging interest in nature and conservation. The 2026 Wildacres session will be May 11-17, and detailed course descriptions and instructors' biographies are provided. Courses listed are: Advanced Wire Wrapping, Viking Knit, Cabochon Making, Introduction to Inlay, Fused Glass, PMC-Silver, Faceting, and Geology. The EFMLS President's Message from Andrew 'Rockhound' is reprinted at right. *-Editor*



EFMLS President's Message from Andrew Rockhound EFMLS News v. 72 no. 12 December 2025

Happy Holidays everyone, the EFMLS wishes a merry holiday season that is warm, happy and full of cheer! It's now December and every club treasurer is wondering what insurance rates will be for 2026... Well unfortunately, at the time of this writing we have not yet received the quote from Brown & Brown, but do expect it within days. Member dues have not changed, but without an official quote, we do not know what the insurance rate will be. Stay tuned, we should have rates and renewal forms posted and clubs notified as soon as we hear, most likely within the couple weeks of December!

As I write this on November 30th, just after returning from New York, digging Herkimer Diamonds in 5" of snow with Geology Club members and was wondering - What is your club doing for members this holiday season? Holiday party/Special event? Send us your pics to post on social!

As always, if you'd like to contribute to the EFMLS in any way, let us know by emailing me at president@efmls.org and I will see what we can do. Have a very merry December, and please deck those halls with plenty of rocks! Then send us pics to share!



West Chester University Geology Museum from the hallway.

D. Glick photo

AFMS Scholarship Foundation 2025
 Honorary Award Plaque for
 Distinguished Achievement in the Field
 of Earth Sciences awarded to Dr. Alicia
 (Cici) Cruz-Uribe
 from EFMLS News
 v. 72 no. 12 Dec. 2025



Photo: Sylvia Eppig, Lauren Madsen, Dr. Alicia Cruz-Uribe, Josephine Fernholz

I recently had the pleasure of travelling to the University of Maine School of Earth and Climate Sciences, Orono campus, to present the Honorary Award Plaque for Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Earth Sciences to Dr. Alicia Cruz-Uribe for 2025. Andrew Rockhound submitted her name on behalf of EFMLS to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for this award and the Foundation awarded two of her grad students \$4000 scholarships! I was fortunate to not only meet Dr. Cruz-Uribe, but also both of the students, Lauren Madsen and Josephine Fernholz. All three were extremely appreciative of the scholarships, especially since scholarships at this amount are becoming rare!

Dr. Cruz-Uribe is the Edward Sturgis Grew Associate Professor of Petrology and Mineralogy and is the head of the MAGIC Lab (MicroAnalytical Geochemistry and Isotope Characterization Laboratory). Her specialty, metamorphic petrology, is the study of the composition, structure, and origin of metamorphic rocks, as well as the processes that form and alter them. Per her bios on the UMaine Earth and Climate Sciences Department and the Mass Spec Academy, she is particularly interested in understanding the geochemical link between metamorphic processes in subducted slabs and arc volcanism. Her current focus is on using a laser



ablation unit coupled to tandem mass spectrometers for trace elements mapping and geological dating.

Lauren Madsen, a PhD student, just co-published a three-year study that redefined the understanding of manganese resources in northern Maine. The U.S. currently imports all manganese, which is essential for steel production and used in clean energy technology. However, northern Maine contains the largest manganese reserve in the U.S., which has been known to geologists for years, but has not been explored. The team completed a geologic remapping of manganese-bearing rocks which led them make several major research breakthroughs and provided more reliable data on manganese resources in Maine in the attempt to protect U.S. production from supply chain disruptions.



Polished Banded Manganese Ironstone Ore

She is currently working with Dr. Cruz-Uribe to analyze rock structures at the microscopic level to better understand how deposits were formed and why in Maine. This will aid in understanding where to locate commercially viable minerals in a way not used before.

Josephine Fernholz is an M.S. graduate student who has joined Dr. Cruz-Uribe and Lauren in their research.

On a different note, this incredible petrified wood piece, about 2 feet in diameter, was donated to the department.

It is so heavy it needs a specially designed stand for it to be displayed on. Until then, it sits on the floor!

It was exciting to me to meet these three ladies who are breaking new ground, literally and figuratively, with their research on a microscopic level that is changing the understanding of how and when our Maine rocks formed and where to locate new deposits of commercially viable minerals.

- Sylvia Eppig, EFMLS Treasurer

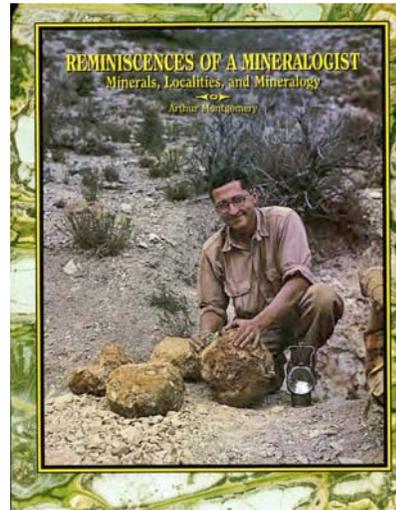
ATTEND ONLINE or IN PERSON
FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium:
Red, White and Blue
– Celebrate the Spirit of Minerals
Saturday, February 14, 2026
Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ

From Bulletin of FM 55:2 June 2025

The forty-fourth Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 14, 2026. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society®, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is a modified form of the show theme: “Red White and Blue, Celebrate the Spirit of Minerals.”

Presentations are expected on red, white or blue minerals – worldwide localities, geology, mineralogy, crystallography, cause of color, or geochemistry. Some examples of topics are rhodochrosite, rhodonite, rubies, red beryl, azurite, aquamarine, and linarite.

Reminiscences of a Mineralogist:
Minerals, Localities, and Mineralogy
 by Arthur Montgomery



For sale by FM-PA Chapter

First famous for specimen mining, Arthur Montgomery was later an organizer of the national Friends of Mineralogy, and was instrumental in starting The Mineralogical Record. He was a professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, during which time he wrote this book, although it was not finalized and published until some years later. In fifteen chapters covering 83 pages, the author describes the start of his interest in minerals, and then traveling, collecting, and investigating minerals through his career. Chapters include bixbyite (including topaz in the Thomas Range, Utah), wulfenite (Red Cloud Mine), beryl (Harding Mine), tourmaline, diamond, mica, quartz, topaz (Thomas Range again), epidote (including Cornog, PA), zircon, olivine group, variscite (Fairfield, Utah), sterrettite, and kolbeckite.

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(Non-US buyers, please request a shipping quote for the cost to mail to your country:

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Make checks out to “F.M., Pa. Chapter,” include your postal address and send to:

David Glick, FM-PA
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

Jan. 31, 2026: Rutgers Geology Museum 58th Annual Open House; theme: TBA. New Brunswick NJ 08901 See web site for admission and parking payment.

<https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/annual-open-house>

Feb 14, 2026: FM National - Tucson Gem & Mineral Society - Mineralogical Society of America Annual Symposium, Tucson, AZ. Attend ONLINE or in person - see page 7. <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>

Mar 7-8, 2026: 62nd Annual Earth Science, Gem and Mineral Show, by Delaware Mineralogical Society. Doubletree by Hilton, Wilmington, DE 19803. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-5. www.DMSrocks.org

Mar. 28-29, 2026: Gem & Mineral Show by Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Wysox Vol. Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Rd., Wysox PA 18854. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. <http://chehannarocks.com/show.html>

Mar. 28-29, 2026: Mineral Treasures and Fossil Fair, by Philadelphia Mineralogical Society. Lulu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 (PA Turnpike, exit 333; or I-476, exit 20) . www.phillyrocks.org

May 2-3, 2026: 57th Annual 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. See p. 7. berksmineralsociety.com

May 11-17, 2026: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, Little Switzerland NC. www.efmls.org/wildacres

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA Chapter web site:

www.rasloto.com/FM/

And the Facebook page
(linked from the site above)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1099795867347595/>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY official address:

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From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-810-2116 (landline) days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the March issue should be submitted by **March 1**.

Materials related to Pennsylvania mineralogy, collecting or collectors are invited for this newsletter: articles, long or short; announcements from FM-PA committees; photographs of specimens, field localities, collections, etc.; reports on publications about PA minerals or by PA authors, or actual book reviews; or other items within the mineralogy and mineral collecting areas of interest. Photographs should be of good resolution (at least 1000 pixels across) without much JPEG compression, so that they will look good in print. Please provide captions including photographers' names.

We are producing four issues each year; your material is needed! If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

National News

The Bulletin of Friends of Mineralogy, links to other chapters, and much more can be found on their web site:

www.friendsofmineralogy.org and
www.facebook.com/FriendsofMineralogy/

We are a member club of EFMLS:

<https://efmls.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>

Shows & Events

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Members can find contact information in the Newsletter edition which they receive directly.