

President's Message

from
Bill Stephens, PG,
President:



**Friends of Mineralogy -
Pennsylvania Chapter
(FM-PA) [2020-present]**
**Friends of Mineralogy
National [2024-present]**

Hello everyone! Tucson is over and I trust everyone made it back home in one piece with lots of goodies and fond memories. This year I was away for about five weeks, starting off with some property inspections in Huntsville and then a week with my folks on the Texas Gulf Coast before heading out to Tucson to check in at our rental January 27th. This year I had 3 roommates: Sean Price who is the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) President, Tomer Shapira the YMC Webmaster, and Tommy Green the YMC Field Trip Coordinator. Same crew as last year, making me the old fart of the crew. ☺ Tommy was a week late arriving due to the storms back east and had to fly in, so that cost us a pre-planned field trip he and I planned to a secret location. Maybe next year. I wound up doing three field trips on my own during our three-week stay.

Continued on page 4

Upcoming FM-PA Symposia Save the dates

Annual FM-PA Symposium
November 14-15, 2026
West Chester University

Special FM-PA Spring Symposium and
EFMLS Annual Convention
April 24, 2027
West Chester University

Annual FM-PA Symposium November 2027
Watch for details

Ron Sloto Receives Carnegie Award Congratulations, Ron!

see page 3



Photo by Bill Stephens

Hogg Mine 2026 Memorial Day Weekend Machine Dig Field Trip

by Bill Stephens PG, President. FM-PA & FM-National

I am pleased to announce that the registration form is on the FM National website and registration is now open for the Memorial Weekend Machine Dig at the Hogg Mine in Lagrange, Troupe County, Georgia, Friday May 22 - Sunday May 24, 2026. Attendance is restricted to members of FM National, FM Chapters, and members of affiliate organizations who join FM National for just \$5.00 first. This is our first field trip for the year and the first in recent memory. Attendance is capped at 30 and we need 20 to make it work, which we think will be no problem, so if you'd like to attend, register soon. **Feel free to post on social media** to help drum up some new members.

REGISTER AT

<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/hogg-mine-memorial-day-weekend-field-trip/>

FM-PA to Host April 2027 EFMLS Convention and Special Spring Symposium

by Bill Stephens

On March 24, 2026 at its regular monthly Board Meeting, Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter (FM-PA) voted unanimously to host the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS) Annual Convention next year as a stand-alone event, to be held from 9:30am to 9:30 PM, **Saturday April 24, 2027** at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania. The meeting event will be held at the Sykes Student Center, Room 115, next to the Chic-fil-A on the first floor. Parking is conveniently located in the rear of the building, close to the rear entrance near the meeting room.

The event will include 4-5 guest speakers covering geologic and mineralogic topics as well as posters showing research conducted by FM-PA and FM National members and affiliates, a silent mineral auction, member sales and displays. The event will include the EFMLS Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet with a Keynote Speaker TBD to follow the short Guest Speaker Symposium during the day.

Scholarly topics presented by our speakers will be the equivalent of 4 to 5 contact hours for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or Professional Development Hours (PDH) preapproved by most State Boards of Professional Geologists.



Attendance may be in person or via Zoom. General registration for the FM event attendance online will begin January 15, 2027.

Registration for the EFMLS Convention Attendees will be on the EFMLS website at a date to be determined. Please mark your calendars. A block of rooms will be secured for EFMLS and other traveling registered attendees at a local hotel. The EFMLS plans activities at the hotel Friday night and a Breakfast meeting Saturday before the main event.

FM-PA Regular Fall Symposium

The April 2027 FM-PA / EFMLS Convention event is offered in addition to FM-PA's regular **Annual Symposium**, the next one to be held **Saturday, November 14, 2026** with a field trip the following day (**see below**). Please mark your calendars for the annual symposium as well. Registration will begin September 1, 2026 and will be on FM-PA's website.



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - Pennsylvania Chapter and West Chester University Earth and Space Sciences Dept. SYMPOSIUM November 14, 2026 Field Trip Nov. 15

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts - tentative plans include:
Saturday Nov. 14: Hybrid Symposium - ONLINE or IN PERSON
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at West Chester University

For newsletters and field trips during the year, please join our chapter!
See "Join FM" on the web site

Talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy and Geology** and the theme **ART in MINERALS** Silent Auction - Give-away Table - Conversation
Professional Geologists: 6 Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance
Sunday Nov. 15: Field Trip. Open only to symposium registrants.

Watch for details, registration form, changes and **UPDATES** on our **web site:**

www.rasloto.com/FM or Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania on Facebook

Ronald A. Sloto Wins 2025 Carnegie Mineralogical Award

by
Travis Olds, Curator of Minerals
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

reprinted with permission from a March 6, 2026, article
<https://carnegiemnh.org/ronald-a-sloto-wins-2025-carnegie-mineralogical-award/>

I am pleased to announce Ronald A. Sloto as the winner of the 2025 Carnegie Mineralogical Award. The award honors outstanding contributions in mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education.

He is Curator and Director of the Geology Museum at West Chester University, Pennsylvania, where he also holds the title of Honorary Professor. Over the course of a distinguished career that includes 41 years with the U.S. Geological Survey, he has become the definitive historian of Pennsylvania mineralogy, authoring a landmark series of reference books that document the region's mineral heritage.

Ron is the bridge between professional geology and the collecting community, ensuring that our mineral history is not lost to time. He has exhaustively documented over 1,400 mineral localities and revitalized the collections at West Chester University.

This award recognizes his lifetime of service to preserving mineralogical history in the library, the laboratory, and the museum.

Additionally, he has authored the "Mines and Minerals" book series, covering Chester, Berks, Montgomery, Bucks, and Delaware counties. These works provide exhaustive coverage of historical mines, geological settings, and associated specimens, serving as essential references for researchers and collectors alike. His work has ensured that the rich mineralogical legacy of the Mid-Atlantic region is preserved and accessible for future generations. As a hydrogeologist, Ron also developed the HYSEP program, a fundamental tool in hydrologic research whose algorithms are still used worldwide. His leadership with the Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter and his contributions to *The Mineralogical Record* have further enriched the mineralogical community.

"My interest in minerals was piqued during my early childhood years collecting quartz crystals and fern fossils in northeastern Pennsylvania," said Ron. "To be able to turn that fascination into a lifelong career with the USGS, and now to help preserve our mineral heritage at West Chester University, has been a wonderful privilege."

I had the privilege of presenting the award on February 14, 2026, at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Congratulations, Ron.

2026 Mineralogical Award

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History established the Carnegie Mineralogical Award, funded by the Hillman Foundation, in 1987. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Carnegie Mineralogical Award and the deadline is November 15, 2026. Eligible candidates include educators, private mineral enthusiasts and collectors, curators, museums, mineral clubs and societies, mineral symposia, universities, and publications. For information, contact Travis Olds, Curator, Section of Minerals & Earth Sciences, at 412-622-6568 or oldst@carnegiemnh.org.

Previous Award Winners are listed on the web site listed in the heading.



Ronald A. Sloto holding the 2025 Carnegie Mineralogical Award.

President's Message *continued from page 1*

On Friday the 29th I was the guest speaker at the YMC Live event at the Fine Mineral Gallery. I believe we had 18-20 attend in person. I gave an updated talk on the Hogg Mine, Lagrange, Troupe County, Georgia, in anticipation of our forthcoming Memorial Day Weekend Field trip which FM National is sponsoring - see page 2. [Registration is available online on the website,

<<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/hogg-mine-memorial-day-weekend-field-trip/>>] I had several show interest in attending despite the cost, which is essentially the same as any machine dig at the mine except this dig will be epic. Stay tuned and check the FM National website for updates.

My first field trip, accompanied by Sean Price, was to the Apache Tears perlite mine in Superior. Always a good place to dig with assured success. I have a field trip report in progress for the newsletter later this year.

I made my annual trip out to the Red Cloud Mine and spent the day with Roger examining the ore view at various locations for sign of wulfenite pockets, but it appears the big pit is pretty played out for the time being until some expansion and maintenance is conducted. I recovered some small crystals in matrix, the best of which I apparently left at the rental[®]. The dumps remain open to the public and produce some small crystals and plenty of fluorescent material. Digging at the South Geronimo for wulfenite is open but the North Geronimo (vanadinite) is currently closed. Roger plans to continue commercial mining in the 150' level. We'll see how production goes this year.

I also made the trip to the Hummingbird Mine in Tonopah, Maricopa County, Arizona, for a day and dug

with Amanda and Lance, the claimholders. I was able with some assistance from the jackhammer to recover some very high quality silicified shattuckite, suitable for lapidary without stabilization (see photo). We'll see how that goes with the lapidary clubs in my area but it appears it is quite popular and commands a comparatively high price. "Elley Knows Rocks" was there a few days ahead of me and I think my haul got tweaked as a result of claimholder remorse for what she took out. A field trip report will be forthcoming in future newsletters, and I may do video for our upcoming private FM YouTube Channel.



Bill Stephens at the Hummingbird Mine

I spent 2 days at Scepter Hill by myself, found a bunch of tiny junky crystals and pieces of quartz crystals, and two small amethystine scepters. I have a lot of content on this site and plan a field trip report for this one as well as it is a good spot to take a small group. Admittedly it has been picked over, but excellent scepters are still found. A lot of exploratory digging is required.

Tommy, Sean Price, and I, along with a young German dealer, took a day to dig at Diamond Point, north of Payson, Arizona, for quartz crystals. This deposit produces quartz crystals very similar to Herkimer



Silicified shattuckite

Diamonds in vugs reminiscent of the Little Falls Dolostone, though these rocks seem considerably sandier and size is limited. Sean got the best crystal at the end of the day, whereas I got a lot of junky pieces, but the learning experience was worthwhile. A field trip report is forthcoming.



Diamond Point Mine

I think I spent less time at the shows this year, and maybe half the time at Mineral City I spent last year. Prices were through the roof everywhere and I had to hunt for deals harder than usual. The only deals I found were at Pueblo, GMCM, Kino and 22nd Street. In hindsight it appears I supported the artisanal miners more than resellers. I acquired one 12-box and one 24-box flat of azurite suns from Kyle Marshall, a watermelon tourmaline from “Twoquyonehole” (Mike and Brad) they mined at the Tourmaline King Mine in Pala; a deep blue aqua crystal from Chase and his partner from the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, an emerald from the Adams Farm collected in 1972 (the year I first visited the Adams farm at age 12), a couple peridot crystals from a Pakistani miner/dealer and a few other items, not specifically direct from miners but perhaps only the first resellers, including a marvelous larimar cab and some nice prehnite specimens.

Once the TGMS main show began, my focus shifted to manning the booth and conducting the FM National business. The convention center galleria booth did generate some new members and symposium attendees as well as great connections even though we were only there for Thursday the 12th. The annual meeting was held at Mineral Nexus the morning of the Friday the 13th, and no, there were no repercussions for that date. We had 14 attendees of the 19 board members including a few on

zoom. Things went pretty smooth as usual and the minutes, once approved, will be published in a forthcoming National newsletter.

Friday night I attended the YMC event at the Alfie Norville Museum in Tucson and hobnobbed with the members and the museum staff. It was a well-attended event and I was pleased to be invited as a mentor again this year.

Saturday, February 14th was the symposium followed by the awards ceremony – a very long and stressful day. As mentioned in prior newsletters, we ran the symposium hybrid this year. Sean Stimac and I ran and recorded the entire symposium, all 8 speakers and things went quite well despite some early fumbling with equipment. Although advertising on social media was not as robust nor did it start as early as I’d hoped, we still had 22 zoom registrants including 8 professional geologists looking for their CEUs. Including the zoom attendees we had over 120 unique individuals by the time we quit counting. At its peak during Dr. Rakovan’s presentation, we had 64 seated including Mark, Sean, and I and the speakers, and 17 on zoom other than us for a total of roughly 81. Mark was quite pleased, especially considering the zoom did not interfere with the speakers and the zoom was effective in getting higher attendance. By my assessment, the attendance was double last year, at least, and likely eclipsed the Pegmatite theme symposium, which was the best attended in many years. This symposium was Mark’s last one as chair, and it will be run next year by myself and Sean Stimac with volunteers. We have a solid process now and the IT guys hired by TGMS know what to do. Going forward, the symposium will be hybrid, and we will advertise much more effectively. I would anticipate more than 50 remote attendees next year if we advertise properly and early. We are planning to create a private YouTube channel for FM and its chapters and affiliates to view past presentations by the summer.

The awards ceremony this year was in the same room as our symposium, which pushed us out earlier than usual. Sean & I packed up and ditched our computers in our cars, and I went back just a short time after. Hors d'oeuvres and finger food as well as drinks were served as usual, and lots of networking was going on. I would surmise this was one of the best attended awards ceremonies of the last few years I have been attending. Certainly, for me, the highlight was our FM-PA member and former Treasurer/President Ron Sloto receiving the much coveted and highly prestigious Carnegie Mineralogical Award (see page 3). Ron had called me Thursday evening to let me

know so I was ready and got some candid pics and video which I'll provide to him. See the posts on our FM-PA and FM National Community Facebook pages. Incoming director David Tibbitts also received an award for a display. As usual, we announced the winners of the Best Article for the Mineralogical Record, Rocks and Minerals, and Mineral News, and the awards for the competitive educational displays at Denver and Tucson. See the summary in the National newsletter.

Sunday after the symposium I took the morning to start packing, knowing I had little room in the new truck to just put things in unmanaged. The afternoon warranted my last walk through the main show and I did buy a wulfenite from the Finch Mine off Evan Jones.

Monday I attended the Silver Bell Mine field trip sponsored by the Mineralogical Society of America, one of our affiliates. I found out too late to do anything about staying for the conference, first ever in Tucson, but managed to squeeze in the field trip before checking out on Tuesday. MSA President Dr. Robert Bodnar (Virginia Tech) and Vice President Dr. John Rakovan put it together last summer/fall with a call for abstracts that received nearly double the response they expected. My HDRI teammate David Tibbitts was able to get a poster submitted on time and he stayed for the conference. I look forward to his report.

Since taking office as President, and I'll continue for another two years as decided at the annual meeting, I have had a number of administrative things to deal with that took considerable time, and not just my time but others on the board as well. Now that most of those items have been put to rest, my focus has shifted to three areas: increasing engagement with our affiliates, particularly MSA as a strategic partner, and YMC as a future pool of FM directors at both National and Chapter levels; increasing engagement with our chapters; and increasing our presence all year long with the larger mineral community through social media, field trips, marketing, and other activities. Each of these missions involves multifaceted approaches and requires volunteer participation. The overarching goal is to increase our membership including members of the board, and others willing to participate and help out, and developing a broader appeal to the mineral community including professionals and academics. Stay Tuned!

I think next year I'll adjust my schedule to arrive about a week before the TGMS show starts and stay for at least a week after to attend the MSA conference, which I understand will be a regular thing going forward. Smaller,

less expensive rental or maybe even my own place, who knows. I would encourage any graduate students and serious mineralists to consider attending the MSA conference, and everyone should attend our symposium now that it's on line!

Next year's 72nd Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (TGMS) theme is "Minerals as Art and the Art of Minerals," aesthetic and artistic qualities of mineral specimens. Anyone interested in giving a presentation can contact me ahead of the official call for abstracts, which I'll issue in the May-June Newsletter and again in the July-August Newsletter and on the website.

Don't forget to check the website (see page 2) to register for the Memorial Weekend Machine Dig at the Hogg Mine!

Cheers and happy hunting!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President, FM-PA and FM National

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, <https://efmls.org/> and <https://www.amfed.org/>

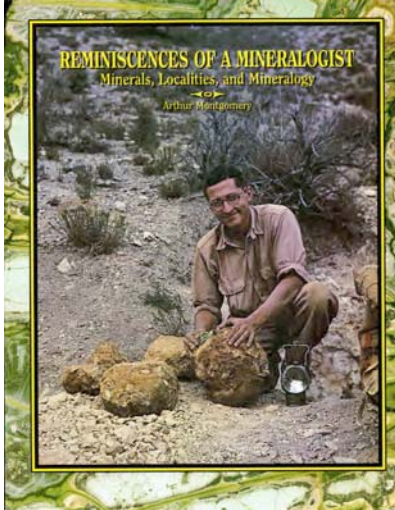
AFMS solicits donations of specimens, jewelry, etc., for their Endowment Fund Drawing; see page 10-11 of their February newsletter. Tickets are for sale at \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Their Crack the News newsletter for Juniors is available on their web site. Public relations and publicity are discussed in multiple articles this season. Their many projects and committees are discussed, and many Club Rockhounds of the Year are introduced and honored.

The Eastern Federation had its drawing for two EFMLS Carolyn Weinberger Memorial Scholarships to the Wildacres Workshops, with the results (one winner is a Pennsylvanian) discussed in the April newsletter. The Speaker-in-Residence for the May session is photographer and author Robert Weldon. Informative safety articles appear in both EFMLS and AFMS newsletters. Our own Andrew 'Rockhound' continues his term as EFMLS President.

-Editor

Reminiscences of a Mineralogist: Minerals, Localities, and Mineralogy

book 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.

ORDER:

\$18.00 by USPS Media Mail to addresses in USA.

(Non-US buyers, please request a shipping quote for the cost to mail to your country: <xidg@verizon.net>)

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

David Glick, FM-PA
425 Armagast Rd
Bellefonte, PA 16823

OR

\$18.00 by PayPal to: FM.Penna.Treasurer@gmail.com



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MINERAL CONFERENCE
2026 MAY 15-17
NEWRY, MAINE

Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference
Center at the Sunday River Resort

Pre-register by May 1, 2026 and save!
Dealers: Contact us!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

April 11-12, 2026: North Jersey Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, by North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Midland Park High School, 250 Prospect St, Midland Park, NJ 07432; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4.

April 25, 2026: Franklin Mineral Museum Mineral Show. Franklin Firehouse Parking Lot, 137 Buckwheat Road, Franklin, New Jersey. Saturday only 9-5. www.franklinmineralmuseum.org/gem-mineral-show/

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 and p. 4

May 15-17, 2026: New England Mineral Conference, Newry, Maine. Students get free registration. www.nemineral.org/annual-conference/

Oct 18-20, 2026: EFMLS Convention & Kanawha Rock & Gem Club annual show, Charleston, West Virginia.

Nov. 14-15, 2026: Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Symposium & Field Trip, West Chester, PA. See page 2.

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/>

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 June issue should be submitted by **June 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

<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY official address:

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425 Armagast Road, Bellefonte PA 16823

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

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Web Manager	Ron Sloto, PG		
Newsletter Editor	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 810-2116

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Web Site: <http://www.rasloto.com/FM>