FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
Pennsylvania Chapter
NEWSLETTER

VOL. 54, NO. 2 — *Meeting annually at our Symposium* — JUNE, 2026

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!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and prime digging season. For my part, I have been nose-to-the-grindstone at work since the Hogg Mine trip Memorial Weekend and do not expect to get out to dig until after the Preliminary Plan hearings for two of my subdivision projects mid-July. Our affiliate Young Mineral Collectors (YMC) is running a dig at Treasure Mountain which unfortunately I cannot make.

Two important events have occurred since my last report and one more item is pending.

Continued on page 3

Upcoming FM-PA Symposia
Save the dates

Annual FM-PA Symposium (see page 2)
November 14-15, 2026
West Chester University

Suggestions and volunteers for 2026 Symposium speakers, and a field trip location, are invited. Please contact President Bill Stephens (see p. 14)

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

Annual FM-PA Symposium - November 2027
Watch for details

New WWW Site on the Way

by David Glick

Our Chapter is working on the transition to a new web site, to be hosted under the Geology365 system. This should be complete before the next Newsletter comes out, so we will email an announcement to members when the site is ready. The plan is to move just about everything that's on the current site. Many thanks go to Ron Sloto for finding and organizing all of that material, and hosting and managing the web site for many years.

As we're working on transferring content from the old site to the new one, we've noticed once again that we're missing some old newsletters and Symposium publications...

FM-PA seeks old Symposium Programs

FM-PA Chapter is seeking certain pre-2012 Symposium printed Abstracts and Program volumes to complete our files and web site. The ones we have are on the web site https://rasloto.com/FM/symposium-programs-and-abstracts/

We are seeking: 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994, 1992, 1989, 1988, 1982, 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973. Please contact David Glick (see p. 14) if you can provide any of these. We could borrow these and return them to the owner, if desired, or we could accept good scans or copies. Thank you!

...and Newsletters

Likewise, we are seeking some older Newsletter issues: 1978- only have spring issue; 1979 - missing #1 and #4; 1980 missing #4; 1981(v.9) missing #1; 1993 missing v.21#3; v.32-34 missing #4 issues (were they published?).

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/

The AFMS newsletter (now digital only) for the months of May and June are available at <https://www.amfed.org/newsletter>.

President Ronna Watkins notes recent and upcoming meetings and trips in the May issue. PR Chair Jim Brace-Thompson's article is on 'Retaining People Once You've Attracted Them.' The Safety article, 'Stop Me If You've Heard This One,' is about the value of repetition in safety and other areas. The EFMLS 2026 Convention dates are corrected to **October 16-18.**

For the AFMS Endowment Fund, tickets are available ($5 or 5/$20, to raise funds for AFMS special projects) for prize drawings. One new prize, a slab of fossil dinosaur bone, is illustrated. Historian Jennifer Haley seeks information on club members "who, over the years, have made significant discoveries and contributions to science as amateur geologists. These categories include Mineralogy and Paleontology in the discovery and documented identification of new minerals and fossils."

In the June issue, the President notes the success of the Bulletin Contest and the Annual Convention, and thanks the many people who made it so. Bulletin Contest results are listed, and our Newsletter took ninth among Large Bulletins across the country, second in the EFMLS. The PR Chair writes on "Using 'Rock Holidays' to Connect with Your Community" - there's at least one in every month! The Safety Chair writes about replacing the handle grips on the 5-gallon buckets that many of us use for field collecting. The Historian writes about a 1950s geological science summer camp in Oregon.

The May issue of Crack the News for junior members is available online at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. "In this edition, juniors from around the country wrote about their favorites, including sunstones, fossils, ammonites, fluorescent minerals, and graptolites. See their stories about mining for gold and collecting in Central Oregon. And enjoy the Art Gallery featuring Kansas shark teeth, dinosaurs, and crystals. The last page features a geology radio star from Michigan."

The Eastern Federation's <https://efmls.org/> May Newsletter includes president Andrew "Rockhound's" column, reprinted on page 13 of this Newsletter. An article on the 2026 (Charleston, WV) EFMLS Convention is reprinted on page 6. There are articles on Wildacres Scholarship honorees and recipients.

In the June issue, The Wildacres Committee Chair recaps the many activities from the May 11-17 session, and updates us on Wildacres in general. President Andrew 'Rockhound' notes the upcoming availability of an EFMLS-wide Zoom account for clubs to use.

- Editor

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

President's Message

continued from page 1

First, the FM-National (FMN) election of at-large directors has resulted in three candidates being elected or re-elected in Bill Besse's case. Let's all take a moment to welcome Dr. Brittany McNamee, PG, PhD, professor at University of North Carolina - Asheville; Mr. David Tibbits, PhD candidate at Rutgers; and Bill Besse, returning at-large director and current FMN Treasurer. Ms. Haley Nedbalski withdrew her candidacy and Mr. Chris Painter, operator of the Hogg Mine, has volunteered to fill the vacancy and is currently up for election. Please cast your vote soon!. According to our outgoing and acting secretary, Jeanine Mielecki, the 22 votes received was one of the largest turnouts for voting in years. Hopefully the electronic ballot made things easier for everyone and we will continue to use that format going forward including the current ballot for Chris. See his profile elsewhere herein.

Second, David Tibbits, Sean Price, and I successfully executed the first ever in decades field trip run by FMN and it was a success! As David and I are both FM-PA Chapter members, I sort of consider this also an FM-PA sponsored event. See excerpts from my email previously issued to our HDRI research group below.

> David and I had a great time at the Hogg Mine, we collected a lot of samples for study and learned a lot about the deposit. I had flown it a couple weeks prior and we have a lot of photographic documentation as well. Very little has been published about this site, and it is "low hanging fruit" for publication.
>
> This machine dig was sponsored by yours truly and the Friends of Mineralogy National as the first field trip offered by FMN in decades and was a great success. We had about 16 attendees for 1 to 3 days, all of whom were happy and had a great time. We added about 8 or 9 new members to FMN.
>
> More importantly, the field trip funded the machine dig for our host and David, Sean Price and I were able to dig and conduct our sampling with machine assistance at no cost outside our travel and lodging expense. This is a great business model for our team going forward.
>
> In addition, we were able to discuss the start-up of a Southeast Chapter of FMN, which will get organized and established and start running later this year. The chief organizer (Chris), who operates the Hogg Mine, has a track record for building a club up from scratch in the past from a few members to over 600 and he has a massive following.
>
> So, what does all this mean? It proves the field team of FMN/HDRI can organize and execute a successful field mission simultaneously with an outreach effort with our outreach partner FMN.

Samples we collected at Hogg, including rose quartz, beryl and other minerals, whole rock and saprolite samples are now in David's custody for various testing. The samples were entered into the new sample management module Ryan Klockner created for us in Geology365. I had flown the site with my mapping drone and some survey ground control previously on my way to NASA MSFC and expect to process the base map before the fall. All of our sample locations were well documented and photographed. Stay tuned for results and abstracts forthcoming.

A similar event is planned for later this year at Treasure Mountain, Little Falls, New York, after the main core drilling work is completed. I have been invited by the Board of Directors of the NY State Council of Professional Geologists to prepare a 1-Day Field Conference, probably the first Saturday in October, during which I hope FMN can work with Bob Borofsky to sponsor a machine dig at Treasure Mountain/Herkimer Mountain. I anticipate David and I, and perhaps a couple others will run both events. This is also a huge deal and honor, and it is in keeping with FMN's mission to provide continuing education for professional geologists as well as others.

As re-elected President of FM National and the new Symposium Chair, there are a number of initiatives I have put in place and intend to expand upon including but not limited to:

1. With Symposium co-chair Sean Stimac, run the annual symposium as a hybrid meeting and advertise heavily amongst our chapters, national members and affiliates well in advance of the event to generate the highest attendance possible and expand membership and awareness of FM and its chapters. This past February, Sean and I ran the symposium hybrid, and the in-person and online attendance combined was more than double the normal in-person only attendance. As a result, we have picked up additional new FM members and a new at-large director. I signed eight PG certificates for zoom and in-person attendees. The hybrid symposium model has been successfully

implemented by the PA Chapter, of which I am President, since 2020. Next Year's Tucson symposium will be Saturday, February 13, 2027. Please mark your calendars and know that you will be able to register online and attend remotely or in person.

2. Engage more actively with our affiliates, particularly MSA, which is now conducting an annual Conference immediately after the TGMS show concludes. David presented at the Poster Session this year on our Herkimer Diamond Research Institute (HDRI) proposed research activities and he and I both anticipate submitting abstracts and participating next year. I am now in contact with MSA's administrators, President Dr. Robert Bodnar and VP Dr. John Rakovan, and hope to have a closer coordination with MSA including cross-organizational information and event advertising through website and social media announcements. Part of our engagement during the TGMS show will be to have a booth for FM National and its chapters at the TGMS show and hopefully secure a spot next to MSA.

3. Expand our social media presence and general awareness of FM National, its mission and events and those of our chapters across a much broader landscape of mineral enthusiasts. Our social media campaigns will help promote our symposia to Professional Geologists for continuing education, leverage the resources of our affiliates to improve attendance and awareness in the more academic communities with researchers and students alike, and in organized lay collecting clubs. We are always looking for more collaboration on the social media front from our chapters and our primary affiliates MSA and YMC.

4. Continue to enhance and maintain the website. So much of the website content was out of date with some information having not been updated since 2016. We continue to provide updates and amendments to make the experience more useful with current content. The bylaws, directors, operating regulations and other content has been updated this year, and new content is being added. Our new webmaster Sean Stimac, our outgoing webmaster Bill Besse, and I have made a lot of updates to bring the information current and keep it that way.

5. Plan and execute one more field trip this year and two per year going forward with the first one completed May 22-24 at the Hogg Mine having been a great success as noted above. Stay tuned for future field trips announcements for later this year. We expect to have another trip for two days at Treasure Mountain in Little Falls, New York. This locality is the initial research focal point for the HDRI team, and I have been asked by the New York State Council of Professional Geologists to prepare a 1-day field trip conference to the Herkimer Area for the first weekend in October. I suspect the event may be open to PGs and students, with collect-on-your-own at the mine of your choice the following day(s). Stay tuned.

6. I have deep involvement as a director and the principal mapper in the Herkimer Diamond Research Institute (HDRI) team. Research will begin soon in the summer of 2026 with a field investigation coring program led by David Tibbits of Rutgers University and will focus on the stratigraphy of the Little Falls Dolostone, host to the world famous Herkimer diamonds. I have laid out control points for coring reference and will complete mapping later this year once the coring program is concluded.

7. **FM-PA will have its annual Symposium and field trip** the weekend of November 14 & 15, 2026, with the symposium to be held hybrid at West Chester University (WCU) Saturday, November 14, and the field trip the following day. Please mark your calendars. The event will have 6 speakers and will be worth 6 CEUs for PGs.

8. **FM-PA will be hosting the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. EFMLS annual Convention Saturday April 24, 2027**, after the next FM National Symposium. The EFMLS is a regional service organization, one and the largest of 7 regional feds that are members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and it serves 86 clubs east of the Mississippi from northern Maine to West Palm Beach Florida with over 10,000 members in those 86 clubs. This event will be a special event with 4 speakers qualifying for 4 CEUs for PGs. Please mark your calendars. Expect the event symposium will focus on Herkimer diamonds and HDRI research. I have been asked and have agreed to serve as President of the EFMLS again for 1 year after a 2-year hiatus.

9. Assist the nominating committee in identifying and securing nominees for at-large director positions at next year's annual meeting, to find a director willing to serve as Treasurer next year and one to fill the vacant VP position immediately.

10. Prepare field trip reports for inclusion in the newsletter and help solicit articles for the newsletter.

As the year progresses I expect our organization to be far more active than it has been the past decade or so. I want to personally thank Mark Jacobson for his service as Symposium Chair and President, and for his guidance along the way. I also wish to thank Jeanine Mielecke for her stellar service as secretary and appreciate her offer to guide the next. The wealth of knowledge these two former National Board members possess is irreplaceable and we hope they will each remain available for consultation in the future.

As a matter of administrative interest, I believe all chapters are current. I had previously issued a policy regarding dues payment and reminder notifications which will become a motion and when adopted will require a slight clarification in the bylaws and perhaps an operating regulations update. For the purpose of proper accounting at the annual meeting, including our internal and chapter membership head count/census, we need all clubs to pay their dues by January as noted and provide their report with membership count and any officer changes, and anything they want on the website promoting their chapter. In the past only a couple chapters paid on time, making it impossible to assess our chapter membership, officers and their contact info, our overall financial position and the general health of our chapters. That confusion and the burden on our treasurer to chase after money all year long has to and will end. We thank you for your cooperation.

In other news, out affiliated, Minerals in Context organization, formerly FM-VA Chapter, has been accepted into the Eastern Federation and expects to begin offering their "Rockhound 101" course as well as running exhibits at shows very soon according to MIC President and former at-large FMN director Tom Hale. Congratulate Tom on successfully completing his PhD at the University of Delaware.

Happy Hunting, Stay Tuned and hope to see you on a field trip or at least next year at Tucson! As always, feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns and/or event advertising you'd like to see us help you promote.

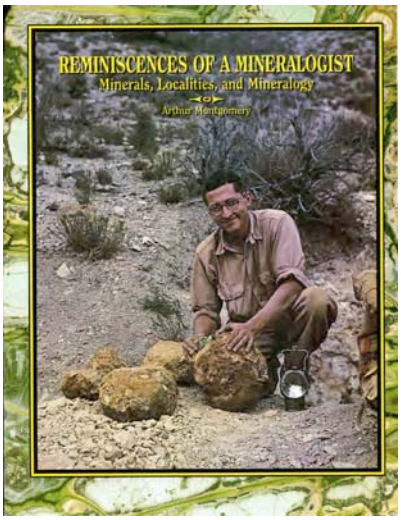
Sincerely,

Bill Stephens, PG, President

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

EFMLS 2026 Convention: What a Wonderful Way to Spend a Day or More!

From EFMLS News v. 73 no. 5 May, 2026

This year's EFMLS convention is being hosted by the Kanawha Rock and Gem Club on Friday, October 16th through Monday, October 19th.

The word Kanawha is from an Indian name meaning "place of white stone". This was probably referring to the salt that was found in the area. The river had several names prior to Kanawha.

The Kanawha River is West Virginia's largest inland waterway, flowing 43 miles in the Kanawha River in a southeast to northwest direction. The Kanawha River merges with the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The source of the Kanawha River is the New River that flows from the mountains of North Carolina until it reaches the confluence with the Gauley River at Gauley Bridge.

Just as the river from North Carolina flows to Kanawha West Virginia, so does our convention location, which was in 2025 in Hickory, North Carolina to Kanawha, WV for 2026!

The host hotel will be the Holiday Inn and Suites in Charleston West. This hotel is an IHG property located at 400 2nd Avenue SW Charleston, WV. The hotel phone number is 1-304-744-4641. Check in is at 3:pm and check out is by 12:00pm. The group rate is $ 139.00 plus taxes which includes breakfast (voucher). Guests at the hotel have until September 25th to reserve a guaranteed guest room. I have not been informed of a group code since it is still early- Amenities include an indoor saltwater pool and whirlpool (I'm in!!), a fitness center, airport shuttle, and on-site restaurant.

West Virginia International Yeager Airport is the airport for Charleston. The hotel of off I – 64, approximately 15 minutes away and less than 10 miles from the airport. The following airlines operate flights to Yeager Airport (CRW): Delta, United, American and Breeze.

If interested in camping, the best and closest location is Kanawha State Forest located at 7500 Kanawha State Forest Dr., Charleston, WV. You can reach the park at 304.558.3500. They offer camping, biking, fishing, hiking, museums and historical sites and geocaching.

All events, other than the show and field trip, will be conveniently held at the Holiday Inn and Suites.

The annual meeting will begin at 7:00pm on Friday, October 16th. The meeting should be no longer than 1 ½ hours. The host club will be presenting a brief introduction to the local geology. On Saturday morning is the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee breakfast. The breakfast includes fruit, scrambled eggs, sausage, seasoned homestyle potatoes, biscuits and country gravy, assorted mini muffins, jellies and butter and orange juice, coffee, hot tea and ice water. (mmmm!) The cost for the breakfast is estimated at $30.00 per person, however, the amount should be included if staying at the hotel – THIS NEEDS TO BE CONFIRMED

The awards banquet is Saturday night. The cost is $40.00 per person. The selection includes: house salad, Italian chopped salad, meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, penne alfredo with grilled chicken, roasted seasonal vegetables, garlic bread, tiramisu and another dessert to be determined and ice tea, coffee and ice water.

Monday, for those interested, a tour has been set at the J. Q. Dickinson Salt -Works. The facility, owned by the 7th generation family, harvests the salt by hand. So, plan on staying for an exciting and interesting opportunity to taste the salt from the ancient sea below the Appalachian Mountains!

The annual meeting will require that all delegates send your delegate registration to EFMLS Secretary, Tina Krueger at flippers1@aol.com

Both the delegation form and the convention package will be in the June newsletter.

At this time, I would like to thank Kurt Canterbury for all his help as show chairperson - and of course, the club itself!

Hope to see you all in WV!

Kanawha River at South Charleston, WV.
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Luminescent Strontianite from Meckley's Quarry, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania

by Calvin Harris

Introduction

This paper describes the fluorescence and phosphorescence of strontianite ($SrCO_3$) from Meckley's Quarry, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The luminescent properties caused by shortwave (254nm), mid-wave (312nm), longwave (351nm) and longwave (370nm) radiation will be described.

Site Setting

Meckley's Quarry is a limestone quarry noted for celestine and strontianite in laminated late Silurian Tonoloway Limestone. The Stratigraphic Correlation Chart of Pennsylvania shows it to date from about 410 million years ago. Its location corresponds to 40.67346, -76.83599, 4.0 km south of Herndon, PA, and 0.8 km south of Mandata, PA.

Strontianite forms under low-temperature hydrothermal conditions (50-200°C) in limestone. Calcite, celestine, fluorite, gypsum and sphalerite can also be found in this quarry and form under the same hydrothermal conditions.

Mineral Description

Eleven small to medium cabinet specimens were selected for this paper. They consist of white, opaque acicular (~0.5cm) and fibrous (~1-2cm) forms situated on dark gray limestone. Several specimens are associated with non-fluorescent, scalenohedral calcite crystals. All were purchased through internet sales.

Test Procedures

The procedures allow observation of fluorescence and phosphorescence under most conditions. Ultraviolet lamps and the DC electric source used to power them were manufactured by UVSYSTEMS, INC., based in Renton, Washington. Each lamp was placed 3-4 inches from the specimens to observe fluorescence and 2-3 inches to observe phosphorescence. A 10-second exposure time was needed to observe and measure phosphorescence. Since phosphorescence requires extra time for electrons to return to their initial energy state, a 2-minute pause between each test proves adequate to prevent misleading results.

Test Results

Specimen A

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, yellow (bunt) color.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 7-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Bright intensity, yellow-orange color.	Bright intensity, yellow-green color, 8-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate intensity, cream color.	Moderate intensity, cream color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate intensity, cream color.	Moderate intensity, cream color, 5-second duration.

Specimen B

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 8-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color, 6-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.

Specimen C

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, sky-blue color.	Bright intensity, sky-blue color, 6-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, sky-blue color.	Bright intensity, blue-green color, 6-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate-low intensity, sky-blue color.	Low intensity, gray color, 4-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate intensity, sky-blue color.	Low intensity, gray color, 4-second duration.

Specimen D

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Bright intensity, white with blue tint.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 6-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Bright intensity, white with green tint.	Bright intensity, white with blue tint, 6-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with yellow tint.	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with yellow tint.	Moderate intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.

Specimen E

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with yellow tint.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 8-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Similar to Shortwave (254nm), except more saturated color.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 8-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate intensity, white color.	Moderate-bright intensity, yellow color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate intensity, cream color.	Moderate-low intensity, gray color, 5-second duration.

Specimen F

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-low intensity, white with blue tint.	Low intensity, blue-green color, 6-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate intensity, white with blue tint.	Low intensity, blue-green color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Low intensity, white with blue tint.	Very low intensity gray color, 3-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Low intensity, white with yellow tint.	Very low intensity gray color, 3-second duration.

Specimen G

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, blue-green color.	Moderate intensity, blue-green color, 5-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 6-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate-low intensity, lime-green with blue tint.	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color.	Low intensity, lime-green color, 4-second duration.

Specimen H

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, sky-blue color.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 4-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, sky-blue color.	Moderate-bright intensity, lime-green color, 4-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate intensity, sky-blue color.	Moderate-low intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, sky-blue color.	Low intensity, gray color, 3-second duration.

Specimen I

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, blue-green color.	Moderate-bright intensity, blue-green color, 6-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Bright intensity, white with green tint.	Bright intensity, sky-blue color, 8-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate intensity, white with yellow tint.	Moderate intensity, lime-green color, 6-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate intensity, white with yellow tint.	Moderate-low intensity, lime-green color, 5-second duration.

Specimen J

Wavelength	Fluorescence	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue tint.	Very low intensity, undetermined color, 2-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white color.	Very low intensity, undetermined color, 3-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate-low intensity, white color.	Very low intensity, undetermined color, 2-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-low intensity, white with yellow tint.	Very low intensity, undetermined color, 1-second duration.

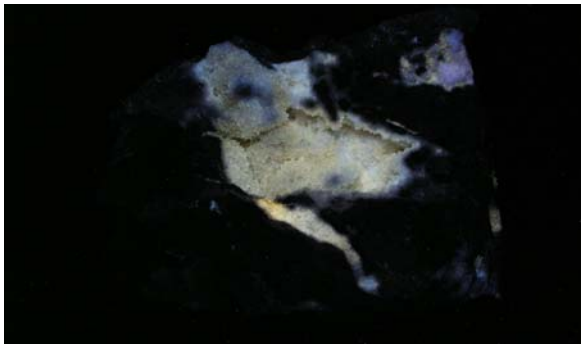
Specimen K

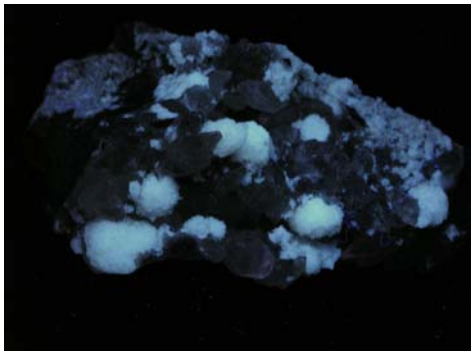
Wavelength	Fluorescents	Phosphorescence
Shortwave (254nm)	Bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Bright intensity, white with yellow tint, 3-second duration.
Mid-wave (312nm)	Bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Bright intensity, lime-green color, 4-second duration.
Longwave (351nm)	Moderate intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Low intensity, white with yellow tint, 3-second duration.
Longwave (370nm)	Moderate-bright intensity, white with blue-green tint.	Very low intensity, gray color, 3-second duration.

SPECIMEN A **SPECIMEN B**

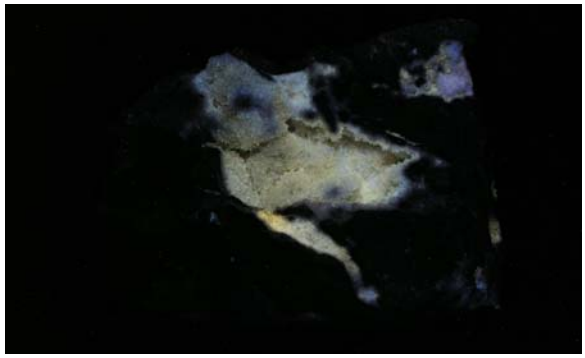
6000K

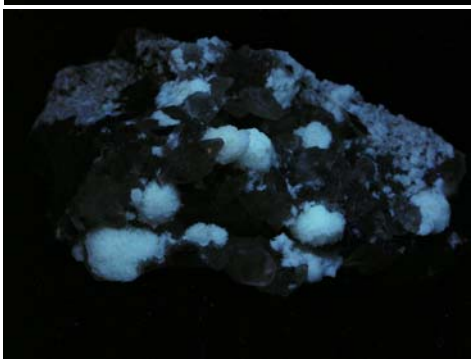
longwave 370nm



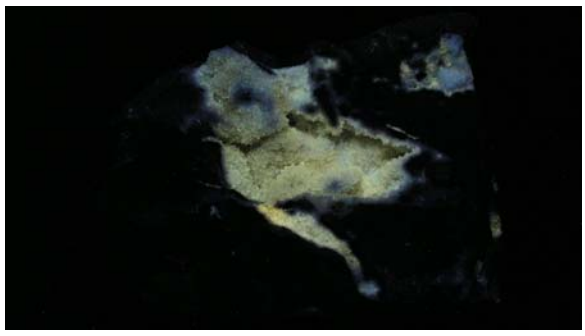


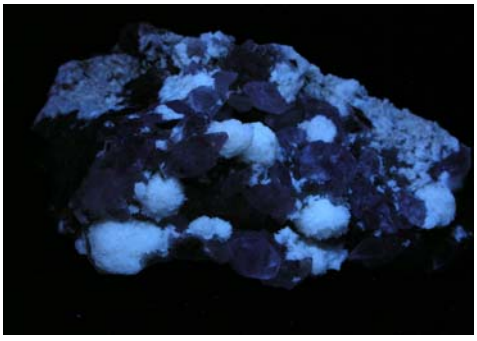
longwave, 351nm



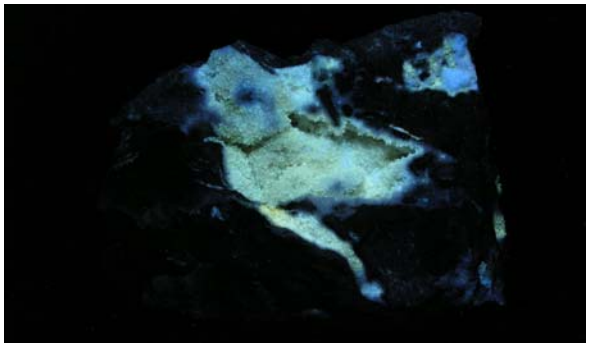


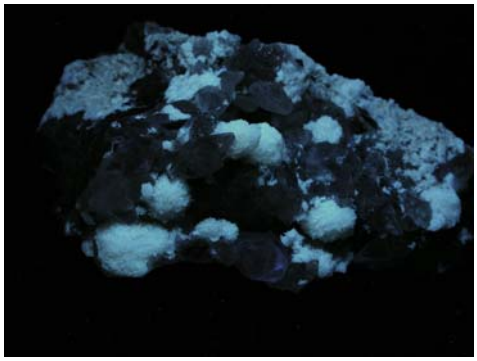
mid-wave, 312nm





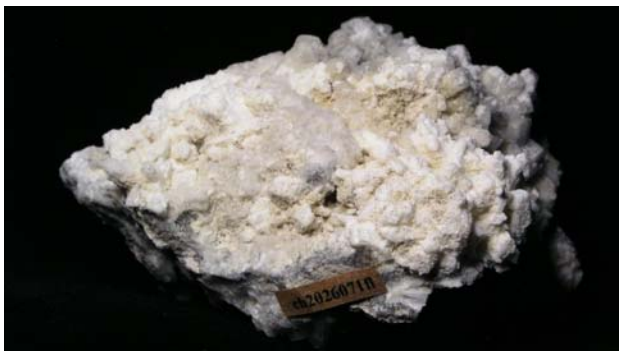
shortwave, 254nm





SPECIMEN C

6000K



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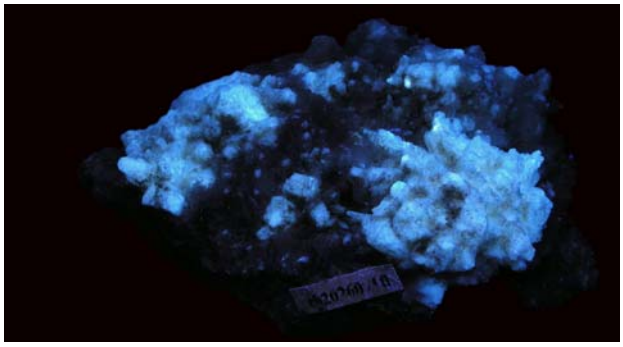
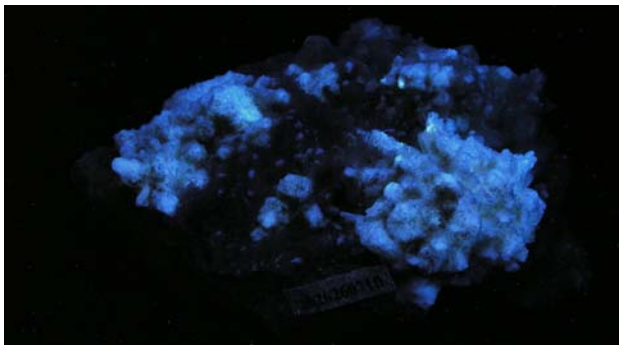
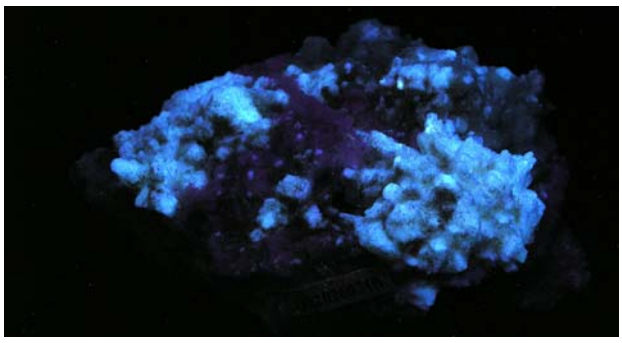


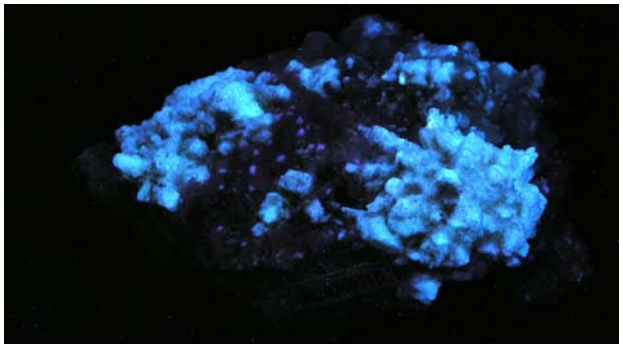
longwave, 351nm



mid-wave, 312nm



shortwave, 254nm



Observations and Notes

The test results provide luminescent characteristics of strontianite from Meckley's Quarry that are not typically found in mineral publications related to this site.

There was some variation in fluorescent responses, based on the wavelength applied. Intensity ranged from bright to moderate; colors ranged from white to sky-blue. Phosphorescent intensity based on wavelength ranged from bright to undetermined. Colors were largely lime-green, but other colors were produced. Duration ranged from 8 to 1 second.

It is likely that organic activators caused the luminosity in these strontianite specimens since the fluorescence and phosphorescence produced have muted colors. Research publications by Y.Y. Shoppov and others explain that luminosity in carbonate minerals can be attributed to fulvic acid, humic acids and other organic substances. These substances derive from decayed vegetative matter and is transported through open spaces in strata by groundwater.

The Atlas of Luminescent Minerals, Spectral Data, indicates that rare-earth elements such as divalent europium cause similar fluorescent colors, but phosphorescence has not been attributed to rare earth elements.

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❄

Getting a Handle on Things

by Safety Chair Ellery Borow

from EFMLS NEWS v. 73 n. 6, June, 2026

To use a common expression – it is generally a good idea to get a handle on how things are going. In this instance, the usage in with regard to a practical matter…

While the canvas shoulder bag is still used for carrying the specimens we collect on our field collecting trips, the modern five-gallon plastic pail is gaining ground for various and sundry reasons. Between the canvas bag and the plastic pail there is a huge difference. The difference is how we carry them. While the canvas tote is carried by a strap over our shoulder, or with straps such as with a back pack, the pail is carried in our hand.

The pail most often uses a metal wire handle with a small diameter plastic handle grip at its center. That small diameter plastic grip is the source of a concern as, often, that grip is broken, partially missing, or completely gone. When carrying such a damaged pail handle, especially with a heavy load, such as rocks, the weight puts a great strain on the biology of the hand. The solution to putting such a strain on one's hand is to carry fewer specimens, however that strategy defeats the purpose of having such a large pail.

There are several ways to solve the issue of a damaged pail handle. One could, for example, purchase a new plastic pail. But one is still left with a rather small plastic handle. While that is better for the structure of the hand as opposed to holding a bare wire handle. What is being suggested here is to modify the handle to make it easier and safer to carry. To do that it is possible to install a larger diameter handle on the metal wire loop. A larger grip is easier on the hand.

Ways to put a larger grip on the wire pail loop include:

Remove the existing plastic grip and

- install a short length of wood dowel, such as from a section of wood broom handle
- install a similar grip but with a section of metal broom handle
- install a grip made from a section of one inch diameter rigid plastic pipe,
- install a short length of one inch diameter hydraulic hose
- install a metal handle such as short section of tubing cut from a piece of old damaged folding lawn furniture, you know - the kind with the woven plastic webbing
- make a handle from flexible plastic potable water tubing
- visit a local hardware store and see what they might have for potential handle materials

First, some general ideas and information:

People have different size hands. Some people may prefer a hand grip of ¾inch diameter to be more comfortable to hold, some, with larger hands, may prefer grips of 7/8 inches in diameter, or one inch, or on up to one and one half inch in diameter. With making a new grip, one can customize its size to one' preference. In any case, the larger grip would be safer and more comfortable than the 1/8-inch diameter bare metal wire used in most pails. Some replacement grips can be slid over the bent metal shapes used to hold the wire loop onto the pail. The bent wire loop is not easy to detach from the pail but it can be removed with a bit of convoluted effort. One can always purchase a new five-gallon pail for a few dollars but it would still have a grip of only 7/16 of an inch in diameter. Such a grip is better than trying to carry the full pail using the 1/8-inch diameter wire loop but not as good as a custom fit grip.

Replacement grip specifics –wood dowel:

Cut the dowel (such as wood broom handle) to three and 3/8 inches long. Drill a ¼inch diameter hole the long way down through the center of the dowel. Next, use a band saw to cut through the dowel, also through the center, such that one now has two semi-circular pieces of wood with a semi-circular groove in the flat (sawn) side. The two halves of the dowel can then be placed over the wire pail loop and wood-glued together to make a complete handle.

Metal broom handle:

Cut a section of broom handle to three and 3/8 inches long. Using a hack saw, cut a slit the length of the metal. Gently spread the slit apart and slip it over the wire loop of the pail. Lastly, wrap tape around the tubing to hold the slit closed. Several wraps of electrical tape or duct tape should do the trick of holding it together on the wire loop pail handle.

Hydraulic tubing handle:

Cut a section of tubing to three and 3/8 inches long. As above, slit the tubing, put it over the metal wire and tape it closed. If the wire loop can be removed from the plastic pail, the hydraulic hose may be slid over the bends of the wire loop instead of slitting the tubing lengthwise.

Rigid or soft plastic piping:

Use much the same techniques as above.

Tips: If one does not have long wood drills, one can use a table saw to cut 1/8 deep by ¼inch slots in the semicircular wood pieces. Instead of a band saw one can use a wood workers hand saw or hack saw to cut the dowel into two semicircular halves. Instead of a knife or hack saw one can use a rotary tool and cutting disk to slit metal or plastic tubing. A visit to a hardware store may offer other options for a more comfortable grip for a 5-gallon pail. If one lacks the necessary tools, perhaps a helpful and well tooled club member can help replace grips on the pails?

The general idea is to get a good grip on your handle, and be kind to your hands. If all else fails, please consider carrying less weight in your plastic 5-gallon pails.

Your safety matters, and that applies to your hands as well. Happy and safe collecting to you.

Pennsylvania Mineral Gallery

Celestine Locality: Meckley's Quarry, Mandata, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, USA (Locality at mindat.org) Size: 11.0 x 10.5 x 9.0 cm. A showy and excellent CABINET specimen of lustrous and glassy, blue-gray celestine crystals to 3.9 cm aesthetically filling a large vug in limestone matrix. This fine piece hails from the famous Meckley's Quarry of Mandata, Pennsylvania. The quarry opened in 1936 and this is large old-timer. The quality rivals Maybee, Michigan material. Ex. George Feist Collection. http://www.mindat.org/photo-135264.html
Credit: Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0

EFMLS President's Message

from
Andrew Rockhound

EFMLS News v. 73 no. 5
May, 2026

"May" safety be with all EFMLS clubs as we get into the full swing of field trips season! Hopefully your club has some great trips scheduled! Just don't forget to request your Insurance Certificate to prove your liability coverage with Eileen Wimmer @ Brown & Brown prior to your field trip, event or club show! It's simple, you can request yours directly by emailing the details to eileen.wimmer@bbrown.com and she will get one right back to you!

Did you know the EFMLS provides clubs with the ability to schedule Zoom meetings using the EFMLS Zoom account? If your club is in need of a way to have longer meetings than a personal account can allow or if Google Meets isn't an option, email me (president@efmls.org) and I can schedule your Zoom meeting, then send you the invitation info to send to your members!

There's a whole lot more that the EFMLS provides, and we'll be sending out a benefits document to clubs detailing everything your club has access to. It's loaded with great resources you may not even know about and might be a great help to your club! Once your club receives it, check it out, and remember while it all helps you, we could also use your help here at the EFMLS! Share your knowledge and experience on a whole new level, helping the community at the same time!

While you're out rockhounding, at a club meeting or at a show and have a story or something you'd like to share across the EFMLS, let me know! We'd love to share it, and spread the word about good things happening in the community. That's it for this month, stay safe, have fun and find some good rocks!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

July 25-26, 2026: Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, by Monongahela Rockhounds . West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15122. http://www.monongahelarockhounds.org

July 25-26, 2026: Christmas in July Fossil and Mineral Extravaganza, by Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club (LCFMC). Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd Lancaster, PA. Sat 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sun 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 3, 2026: Autumn Mineralfest, by PA Earth Sciences Assn. (PESA). Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. www.mineralfest.com

Oct 16-19, 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.

Feb 13, 2027: Tucson Mineral Symposium

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

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 Fall issue should be submitted by **September 15.**

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: **Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter**
425 Armagast Road, Bellefonte PA 16823

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