



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

VOL. 48 No. 2

SUMMER 2020

President's Message

Well, it seems things haven't changed much from the Spring newsletter. America is still on

lockdown, but some states, like maybe Montana and South Dakota, are opening back up. Public unrest is putting America at risk from itself, and for some odd reason the stock market has climbed from a low of below 19000 to over 27000 within the last three months.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first field trip for the Spring (Wednesday 10 June 2020). A quick day trip out to the Amethyst site, a good trial run to test the waters and see if we can start getting back to normal. This collecting site has always spooked the writer and have yet to find something worthwhile. Patience is a virtue.

In the Spring 2020 newsletter, we discussed how there would be a new venue for the Fall 2020 symposium. We are looking at a Lancaster location as a possibility, but because of this Coronavirus dilemma, are also entertaining the option of an online symposium. However, the Symposium field trip will definitely occur. So, read through this newsletter carefully, and provide some feedback to your friendly FM-PA board as to your thoughts. As we toss around cancellation, postponement, and the different Venue options, a decision will most likely be made sometime in September, and with a bit of luck, installed into the Fall 2020 Newsletter.

Have fun, be safe and all the best.
Joseph Marchesani



PLEASE RESPOND to a Survey Concerning the FM-PA November Symposium

by Bill Kochanov

The FM-PA Board really needs the input from its members with regard to the format of this year's annual symposium in November. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Board feels that we have several options to consider. We do not want to put our members at risk and possibly add to the potential for spreading the virus. It is with this uncertainty that the Board is asking the membership to review and respond to the proposed options.

To take the survey go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJXD9PZ>

This link was also in the e-mail transmitting this Newsletter. If you wish, you may scan this QR code with your phone to open the survey. For those who receive this Newsletter in print only, a printed survey and return envelope are enclosed.



In any case, the plan is that the field trip associated with the symposium would still occur, however, it may or may not occur on the day after the symposium.

1. Would you want the symposium to be an in-person meeting at a designated location? (yes/no).

The program would run as in previous years, with protocols put in place for COVID-19, i.e. social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer.

2. Would you want the symposium program run online only? (yes/no)

The program would not have a designated location and participants would view presentations on computer, smart phone, etc. via an online streaming service such as Zoom or pre-recorded presentations.

3. Would you want the symposium program a combination of both, a blend of live presentations at a designated location, and remote live or pre-recorded presentations (yes/no).

This takes into consideration those who may wish to present a talk but feel uncomfortable in attending due to age or pre-existing health conditions.

4. Postpone the symposium until early 2021? (yes or no).

5. Cancel this year's symposium? (yes/no).

Plan for November 2021.

6. Would you have the ability to access on-line presentations using a computer, smart phone, etc.? (yes/no).

7. Would you be interested in attending a field trip in November? (yes/no).

Respectfully, the FM-PA Board wants a response ASAP, and definitely by June 30.

Call for Symposium Presentations

Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter invites submissions of abstracts for presentation at our annual symposium. If held in person, the Symposium is expected to be in Lancaster, PA, on Saturday, November 7, 2020. If held online, video files of presentations will need to be provided in advance. Presentations on Pennsylvania minerals or mineral localities, or topics of interest to mineral collectors, are invited. Abstracts may be up to two pages and may include illustrations of sufficient resolution to look good in print; a biographical sketch and photograph of the author are also welcome. We provide an honorarium of \$100 for each presentation. Contact Joe Marchesani or another Board member (see page 6) if you might be interested in making a presentation.

Chapter Board Meeting via Zoom

Online Zoom meetings are being used by the Board of Directors to keep things moving and plan for the annual Symposium. There was a meeting in May, another in early June, and a third is planned for mid-June. So far both in-person and online Symposia are under consideration, hence the survey (see page 1) to help the Board decide which is more likely to meet the needs of the membership. Ways in which we might present an online Symposium, if it comes to that, has been a major topic of discussion. We're keeping our eyes and ears open for experiences of other groups having online meetings. All Board members are considering who we might invite to give a presentation (see article above). It's agreed that we want to have an in-person field trip, even if the meeting presentations are online. Field trips other than the Symposium trip are also being investigated.

While We Can't Travel Much

While many of us are stuck at home, museums and others may be offering new material to view on the internet. Nittany Mineralogical Society's web page at <http://www.nittanymineral.org> lists several online tours, presentations, etc., of interest (scroll down to find that section).

Our Board Members Check In

Dianne Soccio

Thinking of the entire FM-PA family, and hoping that this finds everyone doing well. After such an unusual spring, it is particularly nice to be welcoming the upcoming summer season.

In a springtime where both travel and gatherings have been significantly limited, our field trip coordinator, Tom Pankratz, was able to arrange one field trip, to search for amethysts. What a great way to bring back some normalcy for club members, by being able to attend a field trip. Originally scheduled for June 6th, Mother Nature had to add her own twist by providing heavy rains the night before, causing the trip to be postponed. However, Tom was persistent, and managed to reschedule the trip for the 10th, one day before the site would become unavailable for the rest of the season. Field trip attendees of all ages, including members of FM-PA, were treated to a beautiful, sunny, spring day, with a refreshing breeze. To maintain safe practices, social distancing was encouraged, and mask-wearing was required to travel between the parking area and the collecting site, as well as when interacting with other non-family field trip attendees. Folks were scattered across the site, collecting through visual searches, as well as hole digging. And while the elusive motherlode again evaded discovery, it appeared that all enjoyed simply getting out, and getting the opportunity to go collecting again. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Tom and the landowner, for making the only field trip for Spring 2020 a reality, as well as to all those who were interested in attending. While there are currently no planned field trips for this summer, stay tuned for potential fall trips, including one associated with the symposium.

Speaking of the Symposium, please do not forget to reply to the survey concerning it. Your responses will help play a part in determining how the symposium goes forward for this fall. Your feedback is most appreciated!

May you all stay safe and well, as things start opening up and life becomes a little more "normal" again.

Mike Dunton

After a spring of quarantine here in NE PA and NJ, I was looking forward to our first organized collecting trip – amethyst in Lancaster County. But the heavy rains in southern Lancaster County on the Friday before the trip postponed that trip. But things are looking better and hopefully a few collecting trips – with some safety changes – will happen in the next few weeks.

It is time for us to plan for our fall symposium so we would appreciate it if you would respond to our survey with your thoughts for our fall meeting & collecting trip.

David Glick

During Pennsylvania’s stay-at-home period, I was glad to be able to keep busy with woodworking projects for my new house. I’ve become familiar with Zoom for discussions in various mineral clubs. This week I’m about to contact some possible venues concerning our Symposium, in case we do have it in person. I hope everyone will stay well and that we can continue to safely move toward “normal.”

Tom Pankratz



Photo by D. Soccio

The Board of Directors is grateful to Tom for all his work as the June field trip had to be postponed at the last minute due to heavy rains. The rescheduled trip on June 10 turned out very well. Thanks, Tom!

Bill Stephens had his drone operating on the June 10 amethyst field trip. See the photo below.



FM-Pa members search for amethyst on a beautiful Pennsylvania spring day.

Drone photo by Bill Stephens



Calcite phantom crystals, Valley Quarry, Shippensburg, Cumberland County, PA. 8.3 cm / 3.3" across. Collected by Skip Colflesh and his colleagues. *D. Glick photo.*



Calcite crystals with coating, York Building Supply Quarry, York, PA. 11.4 cm / 4.5" across. Collected by Skip Colflesh and his colleagues. *D. Glick photo.*



Dolomite, Binkley-Ober Quarry, East Petersburg, Lancaster County, PA. 8.4 cm / 3.3". Collected by Skip Colflesh and his colleagues. *D. Glick photo.*



Golden calcite crystals, Valley Quarry, Shippensburg, Cumberland County, PA. 14 cm / 5.5". Collected by Skip Colflesh and his colleagues. *D. Glick photo.*



A winter find at York; photo from www.jcminerals.com/gallery.html

“Skip” James J. Colflesh 1951 - 2020

FM-Pa member and supporter, avid mineral collector, geologist, and jeweler Skip Colflesh died on April 5, 2020. He and his wife Kim had recently moved from Hershey, Pennsylvania, to Atascadero, California. The family has an extended obituary on Skip’s Facebook page. He had Leptomenigeal Disease, a rare fast-acting cancer involving the cerebrospinal fluid.

He was the proprietor of The Jewelers Bench, a custom jewelry shop in Hershey, Pa. For many years, Skip and his collecting colleagues collaborated on finding Pennsylvania minerals on every weekend that the weather would possibly allow it. The best of the best, well-displayed in his home, were very impressive.

The obituary notes Skip’s many interests and achievements; “The Jewelers Bench and his mineral specimen collection were everything to him. He has donated minerals to West Chester University and others, gorgeous custom designs to charitable foundations and was featured for his minerals in *Rocks & Minerals* (vol. 92, no. 4) and *Mineral Collections in the American Northeast*, a supplement to the *Mineralogical Record*, July/August 2016. Some of his minerals are available on jcjminerals.com. [See also <https://www.facebook.com/JCJMineralsHershey/>] While *Girl, Interrupted* was filming in Pennsylvania, their wardrobe crew worked with Skip to supply some period appropriate estate jewelry for Vanessa Redgrave, which he thought was pretty cool.”

Most recently, Skip donated many good specimens for the FM-Pa 2018 Symposium silent auction. By the 2019 Symposium, everything had been moved to California.

Skip will be missed among Pennsylvania collectors and his FM-Pa friends. We send our sincere condolences to his family. -Editor



Skip’s “killer garnet” collected at Cornwall, Lebanon County, PA, by Ryan O’Neal. Garnet is 6 cm / 2.5 in. *R. Sloto photo.*



Celestine and calcite, Meckley’s quarry “old pit,” Mandata, Northumberland County, PA. Collected by Skip Colflesh and his colleagues. Section shown is 7.5 cm / 3” across. *D. Glick specimen & photo.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

See www.mineralevents.com for more

**Many events are still being rescheduled.
Confirm details of events before attending.**

Sep 26-27, 2020: Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show by Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Harrisburg Consistory, 2701 N 3rd St, Harrisburg PA 17110. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4. <http://www.rockandmineral.org/>

Oct 3, 2020: Autumn Mineralfest, by PESA. Macungie, PA. Sat. only, 8:30-3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

Oct 31, 2020: South Penn Rock & Mineral Swap & Sale, by CPRMC & Franklin County RMC. South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville PA. Sat. only.

Nov. 7-8, 2020: Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Annual Symposium and Field Trip. Watch for news; see Survey on page 1. Location to be announced.

Nov. 14-15, 2020: Monongahela Rockhounds Show, rescheduled from April. West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Co., #4 Skyview Hall, 660 Noble Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15122. (Near Century III Mall & Allegheny Co. Airport) See <http://www.monongahelarockhounds.org/events.php>

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 814-237-1094 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 209 Spring Lea Dr., State College PA 16801. Materials for the **Fall** issue should be submitted by **September 4**.

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.

DONATIONS WELCOMED

The FM-PA Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are gratefully accepted and should qualify for deduction from your federal income tax. Donations of any size help to offset the general operating costs of the Society, helping to keep dues low.

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA Chapter web site at www.rasloto.com/FM/ and facebook: Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter

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

Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter Directory of Officers

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

President	Joe Marchesani	Jmarch06@comcast.net	(609) 433-5129
Vice President	Dianne Soccio	dianne.soccio@gmail.com	(302) 333-3764
Treasurer	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	(610) 469-0626
Secretary	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 237-1094
	Mike Dunton	pocono1mike@yahoo.com	(570) 629-1246
	William Kochanov	wkochanov4@gmail.com	(717) 571-5015
	Bill Stephens	bstephens@stephensenv.com	(302) 286-0406

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	(610) 469-0626
Field Trip Chair	Tom Pankratz	TjPankratz@verizon.net	
Web Manager	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	(610) 469-0626
Newsletter Editor	David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 237-1094

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