

# FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER



VOL. 51 No. 3

OCTOBER 2023

**Plan NOW to Attend:**

**SYMPOSIUM on  
Pennsylvania Mineralogy  
& Geology, and  
First Annual SHOW  
at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown**

**Meet & Greet Friday Nov. 10**

Friday evening, 6:00 p.m. at the Sleep Inn (see p. 2), and rock give-away by UPJ. Show off your most significant find of the summer.

**Mineral, Gem & Fossil SHOW**

**Sat. Nov. 11 FREE ADMISSION**

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Conference Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown.

30-plus vendor tables with fascinating merchandise.

**SYMPOSIUM Saturday Nov. 11**

**FM-PA members \$10, non-members \$15, students free.**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Conference Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown. In person or Online. Seven presentations (see page 2), Annual Meeting of the membership & elections, silent auction, giveaway table.

**UPDATE:** Morning coffee and pastries in the Varsity Room included, thanks to an anonymous donor!

**Field Trip Sun. Nov. 12** Departs 9:30 a.m.

Open only to Symposium registrants who attend (NOTE THIS CORRECTION) **Saturday** afternoon safety briefing (the final talk of the Symposium) in person or via Zoom. Safety equipment will be required on the trip.

**JOIN US! -**

The Symposium will have informative talks by knowledgeable speakers on minerals, geology and mining in Pennsylvania and beyond (see page 2). This is a hybrid meeting with attendance both in person and via Zoom. Doors open for check-in at 8:00 a.m., with the presentations scheduled to conclude at 5:00 p.m. As usual, the Symposium will include a silent auction, give-away table, and plenty of opportunities for visiting with fellow enthusiasts. All interested mineral collectors are invited to register and attend.



Conference Center at the Living-Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown. Parking is in the lots to the left (north).  
*S. Lindberg photo*

**Advance REGISTRATION is open now** by mail or internet; the form and payment must be received by the Treasurer by **November 8** (Nov. 4 for those with box lunch orders). The registration form is available on the web site <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/>

**On site** registration on Saturday November 11 is possible, but it is by paper form only, cash or check only. Registration for FM-PA members is \$10, non-members \$15, college and younger students free (parents must provide supervision of minors.)

**LUNCH:** There are several possibilities for **lunch:** Order a box lunch to be delivered to the building (\$16, order must be received by Nov. 4, see registration form); walk to brunch buffet at the campus dining hall, \$16 payable on site, no reservation needed; Subway on campus; grill station in the student union; and several restaurants are within short driving distance.

**SILENT AUCTION and GIVEAWAY TABLE** are long-time favorites at our Symposia. The auction raises funds for our Chapter, and both find new homes for

**NEW IN THIS NEWSLETTER - DON'T MISS:**

**"I am so excited for our upcoming symposium"**  
- FM-PA **President's Message**, page 3

Symposium to include brief **Annual Meeting and elections** - page 2

**Driving & parking directions** - page 3

*continued on page 2*

*SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1*

specimens, books, and equipment. A donation or two - or more - are greatly appreciated, not only by the Chapter but also by their new owners.

**PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS: UPDATE: SIX** Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance.

**WEB SITE:** <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/> has updates, details, and the registration form.

**CONTACT:** e-mail: <bstephens@stephensenv.com>

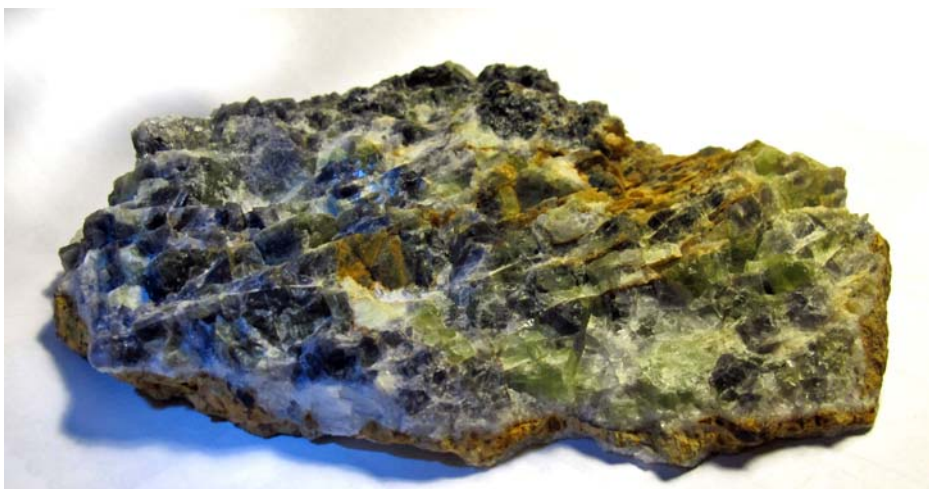
### LODGING

The following three hotels are nearby, and others are in the area.

Sleep Inn of Johnstown  
<https://www.choicehotels.com/pennsylvania/johnstown/sleep-inn-hotels/pa030?mc=llgoxxpx>  
 Address: 453 Theatre Dr, Johnstown, PA 15904  
 Phone: (814) 262-9292  
 Within 1 mile of campus

Comfort Inn Of Johnstown  
<https://www.choicehotels.com/pennsylvania/johnstown/comfort-inn-hotels/pa113>  
 Address : 455 Theatre Dr, Johnstown, PA 15904  
 Phone : (814) 266-3678  
 Within 1 mile of campus

Holiday Inn Express of Johnstown  
<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/johnstown/jstjt/hoteldetail>  
 Address: 1440 Scalp Ave, Johnstown, PA 15904  
 Phone: (814) 266-8789  
 About 1.5 miles from campus



Green and purple fluorite from New Paris Quarry, Bedford County, PA.  
 Approx. 5 inches. *D. Glick photo & specimen, ex-Pen Ambler, ex-Ed Carper.*

## SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

scheduled for Saturday:

William Kochanov, PG  
 Gypsum Occurrence in the Lower Pennsylvanian Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree  
 Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky

Dr. Robert J. Altamura, PG  
 A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the effect of Superimposed Polysynthetic Twinning

William Stephens, PG, and Stephen R. Lindberg  
 Geology & Mineralogy of the New Paris Quarry with Emphasis on Structural and stratigraphic relationships as assessed using Modern Mapping Techniques (Parts 1 and 2)

Chris Howard, Aleya Shreckengost, and Dr. Ryan Kerrigan  
 The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Aleya Shreckengost  
 Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems

Dr. Christopher Coughenour and Stephen R. Lindberg  
 Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian- inland sea at the New Paris quarry, Bedford County, Pennsylvania

Field Trip & Safety Instructions: **Attendance required** (in person or via Zoom) for field trip participants

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The Symposium will include a brief ANNUAL MEETING of the membership of the Corporation, including elections. Incumbents Mike Dunton and David Glick, and new candidate Mark Sigouin, are standing for election to the Board of Directors.

## FM-PA President's Message

Bill Stephens, PG, President FM-PA & EFMLS

Hello everyone. I am so excited for our upcoming symposium scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 11 & 12, 2023 with an informal get together on Friday evening the 10th at the Sleep Inn. We have blocks of hotel rooms reserved at several hotels in the area for your convenience. This year's Symposium on Saturday the 11th is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus Geology Department/Club at the University's Living and Learning Center Heritage Hall, a venue three times the size we normally have! Plus, we have the alumni center set up for registration and poster sessions. The main hall is divided in half so the symposium (which will have 6 talks for 6CEUs/PDHs for Professional Geologists this year rather than the usual 5 talks) will be in one half, and the other half will be devoted to a show with several dealers, open to the general public for free! The talks will focus on the Silurian and Devonian rocks, minerals and fossils of the New Paris quarry with other talks on Minerals of Pennsylvania including collectible minerals of Oak Hall quarry and other locations in Centre County. Displays of Pennsylvania minerals and our silent auction will be available.

This year is a year of firsts for FM-PA:

- First time in more than half of our history the Symposium has been held outside our "comfort zone" of the western Philly-Lancaster Area.
- First time our Symposium has ever been hosted by a major PA university (not just held at, but hosted by).
- The first time we've ever had a venue this large, this modern, this accessible and this well prepared for hybrid meetings.
- First time we've invited non-members to sell at the show and opened it to the public for free!
- First time we've had an army of college students attend, assist, and participate.
- First time we've ever had a demonstration of modern mapping techniques applied to pits and quarries.
- Probably the first time we have had original research by college students that pertains to our field trip locality presented at the symposium prior to the field trip.
- First time we will have live and pre-recorded interviews with dealers, our speakers, and hosts on our Facebook Page and on YouTube.

And much more. This year we have really focused our symposium on our field trip venue and there will be numerous talks at the symposium in preparation for the field trip on Sunday. For professional geologists, particularly those interested in mineralogy, geology and paleontology of the upper Silurian lower Devonian of PA

who may have intended to attend the Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists that was cancelled, this is your chance to get 6 CEUs/PDHs for as little as \$15.00! Maybe it's time to Join FM-PA and stay up to speed on what we are doing and how we contribute to fun and scholarly geological/mineralogical work in Pennsylvania!

The field trip will be held Sunday, the day after the symposium, at the New Paris Quarry, not 25 minutes from the campus. Many of our Pennsylvania collectors are aware that the quarry has produced some very nice fluorite from the calcite veins in the limestone. This quarry is now a field teaching locality for UPJ. Weather permitting we'll have a drone mapping demonstration and a remote strike and dip measurement demonstration using a robotic total station onsite during the field trip event.

I and our Board are so excited to bring this extraordinary event to our members and others. If you can't physically make it, join us via zoom after registering. Check out our live and pre-recorded broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube.

Hope to see you there!

### Driving to Pitt Johnstown Campus:

**From eastern, southern, or western points:** Take the PA Turnpike (Route 76) to the Somerset Exit. From Somerset, take Route 219 North to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756. Make a right off the exit, then another right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

**Alternate route from eastern or southern points:** Take the PA Turnpike (Route 76) to the Bedford Exit. At the exit, turn left on Business Route 220, then left again onto Route 220 (I-99) North towards Altoona. Exit onto Route 56 West. Follow Route 56 for approximately 33 miles until reach the traffic light at Theatre Drive. Make a right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

**From northern points:** Take Route 219 South to the Geistown/Elton Exit, PA Route 756 (Note: do not take the Johnstown Expressway exit). As you descend the exit ramp, use the middle lane. At the traffic light (bottom of exit ramp) turn left onto Route 756; then turn right onto Theatre Drive. Follow signs to campus.

The **Symposium is at the LLCNT (Conference Center)**, directly off Kunk's Drive at the northeast side of the campus. **Free parking** is available in three separate lots near the conference center, to the north, around the intersection of Picking Drive and Kunk's Drive. See the map on the web site, <https://rasloto.com/FM/whats-new/>, which also shows location & parking for evening rock give-aways at Krebs Hall.

## FM-PA seeks old Symposium Programs

FM-PA Chapter is seeking certain pre-2012 Symposium printed programs 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, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994, 1992, 1989, 1988, 1982, 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973.

Please contact Treasurer Ron Sloto (see p. 8) if you can provide any of these.

## EFMLS Social Media Update

by Andrew Rockhound

EFMLS Social Media Director

Our new Facebook page “Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies” is up and running, please Like, Follow and Share! It’s at <<https://www.facebook.com/efmls.org/>>. The earlier EFMLS Shows and Events page at <<https://www.facebook.com/EFMLS/>> is still going strong. We are posting upcoming events to both pages, but focusing more on positive outreach like club activities, field trip highlights and member spotlights for the new page. Does your club have a new “Rockhound of the Year”? Send us a pic and description! We need you and your club to send us your photos, so we can post them, so just use the message button on the page to send us your content. The page is only as good as the clubs who participate in sharing content! Please don't send us stuff to sell, or spam. Let's get this page rolling by members following it, from all the clubs in the Federation!

### 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.

## Rockin' in the Alleghenies - JOHNSTOWN FM-PA Annual Symposium and MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW



### Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter SYMPOSIUM & SHOW Nov. 11, 2023 - Field Trip Nov. 12

Attend ONLINE -OR- IN PERSON at University of Pittsburgh - JOHNSTOWN

## FIRST ANNUAL MINERAL, FOSSIL & GEM SHOW SHOW SATURDAY 8:30 - 6:00 ADMISSION FREE TO ALL 40 TABLES OF SELECTED VENDORS

**SYMPOSIUM** for mineral collecting enthusiasts Non-members \$ 15.00 Members \$10.00 Students free

**Friday evening Nov. 10:** Meet & Greet - bring your mineral specimens to talk about.

**Saturday Nov. 11:** Hybrid Symposium - **ONLINE** or **IN PERSON**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown

Seven talks by knowledgeable **SPEAKERS** concentrating on **Pennsylvania Mineralogy & Geology** and more:  
Gypsum Occurrence in the Vanport Limestone, Lawrence County, PA - by William Kochanov, PG  
Minerals from Centre County: From the bottom of the quarry to the top of the Sky - by Dr. Andrew Sicree  
A Model for the Cause of Iridescence in Plagioclase Feldspar and the Effect of Twinning - by Dr. Robert Altamura, PG  
Geology & Mineralogy of the New Paris Quarry with Emphasis on Structural and stratigraphic relationships as assessed using Modern Mapping Techniques - by Bill Stephens, PG, and Stephen R. Lindberg  
The Geochemistry and Petrology of the Bald Hill Bentonites in SW PA - by C Howard, A Schreckengost, Dr. R Kerrigan  
Insights from phosphatic conodont fossils recovered from a Silurian-Devonian inland sea...New Paris quarry...PA - by C. Coughenour & S. Lindberg  
Examining Mineral Fluid Inclusions to Assess the Economic Potential of Allegheny Hydrothermal Systems - by Aleya Schreckengost

Silent Auction – Give-away Table – Meet Fellow Collectors - Rock Giveaway by UP-J  
Professional Geologists: Six Professional Development Hour credits available for full lecture attendance

**FIELD TRIP Sunday Nov. 12** New Paris Quarry. Open only to symposium registrants. Register now!

Visit our web site for details, registration form, changes and updates: [www.rasloto.com/FM](http://www.rasloto.com/FM)

## FM National & Chapters News

See the September Bulletin on the web  
<https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/>  
 for these stories and more:

A bureaucracy story with a happy ending: FM is incorporated in California; because of delinquent paperwork due to various situations including Covid, address changes, officer changes, and mail apparently lost in a California mountain blizzard, their tax-free status was in jeopardy. The current officers got it straightened out, and all is well.

FM-Virginia Chapter is becoming Minerals in Context, and will remain part of FM (Sept. Bulletin, p. 13-15). "We chose this name because it embodies our commitment to education about minerals in their context as sources of critical materials, for their chemical and physical properties, as records of planetary histories, as inspiration for industrial materials, of health and safety issues, of culture (high and popular), and last, but not least, their beauty."

FM-New Jersey: Lots of activities!

FM-Pacific Northwest Symposium livestream Oct. 20-22.

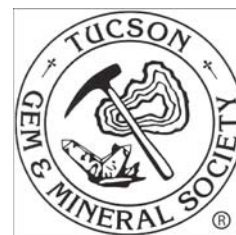


In conjunction with the Mineralogical Society of America and the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society®, Friends of Mineralogy is pleased to announce the **42nd Annual Tucson Mineral Symposium**.

## *Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful* *Saturday, February 10, 2024*

Nine speakers have volunteered to give talks at the joint pegmatite symposium. The abstract booklet with the schedule for the talks will be posted online soon after it is completed, prior to December 2023. The speakers and their titles are listed below in no particular order.

- Michael Menzies – Gem pegmatites
- David London - Gem-Forming Cavities in Pegmatites
- Robert F. Martin - Cleavelandite: only crystals small and beautiful
- Michael Wise - Pegmatites: Earth's Most Amazing Rocks
- Markus Raschke - The South Platte pegmatite district of Colorado: new insights into mineralogy, petrogenesis, and rare-earth element fractionation
- Myles Felch - Maine's spodumene-bearing pegmatites
- Peter Lyckberg - Chamber Pegmatites of Volyn, Ukraine
- Roy Bassoo - Trace elements in Texas topaz and their petrogenetic significance
- Calvin Mako (speaker) and Carson Richardson - Geochronology of REE-bearing Proterozoic pegmatites in the Arizona pegmatite belt



**EFMLS President's  
Message**  
from Bill Stephens  
EFMLS News October 2023



OK, so I went to Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining (MVMM) last weekend (September 16 & 17) for a serious ledge busting effort, found nothing of consequence and came back early empty handed with a upper respiratory thing. I had intended to stay through Thursday the 21st. Not very fun and of course it always costs me to be away from the business for any length of time. But that's not the whole story.

Brian Major the Crystal Collector and his little Shih Tzu dog Matrix were in attendance and multiple pockets were revealed for MVMM machine dig guests. I guess the mission was to utilize Brian's extensive social media viewership to advertise the mine and the event, and it appeared to be successful for the owner. Our Social Media Director Andrew Rockhound "Dirtman" was also in attendance, along with Lee Levesque, who recently found multiple world-class museum-grade skeletal Herkimer Diamonds at MVMM. Those three goofs did a video with one of Lee's big skeletal like they were playing football, LOL. [Definitely check out Dirtman Reports, Crystal Collector videos and my videos/pics on FB from this event.]



Vicki Cover and Peanut with her Mohawk Monster from earlier this year.

I'm sort of the unofficial geologist for the mine, and I did a little bit of research/mapping but spent several days busting ledge in the skeletal zone with Nick Andrewski. We opened a pocket with what would have been a giant skeletal crystal, but due to profuse rod-like fluid inclusions it had exploded into 30 or more pieces in the pocket long before we popped it open. A heartbreaker for sure. The pieces weighed over 30 pounds. I'm sure, considering the amount of ledge we removed, statistically the next guy in should hit a pocket quickly. Rain and feeling bad drove me off the ledge (LOL) early.



Fragment of a 30lb+ Skeletal Herkimer that exploded in the pocket (above), and Nick Andrewski removing more and more pieces (below).



The community of collectors who come to MVMM often attended the usual fireside chats and dinners after hours and we all had a great time. Sometimes I think it's as much about the camaraderie and connections with others we make at these events as it is about the crystals. I got to converse with members of several EFMLS clubs including two Connecticut clubs. It's also cool to see the Starlink satellites and the space station go over while around the fire.



Examples of stunning fluorites from a new pocket discovery at the Blanchard Mine, NM, recovered by Mike and Bradley of "TwoGuysonehole".

The last two weekends, first at Earth Bling and then at MVMM, I have met several new friends for life, including some young miners Mike and Bradley of "twoguysonehole" who excavated a very large pocket of stepped green and purple-skinned fluorite, some with galena, brochantite, chrysocolla, and other minerals, from the Blanchard Mine in New Mexico. I'll be working with them on marketing the specimens. They have material that will be on display at the Socorro Symposium in November. Also working with Tommy Greene of the North Jersey club on some prospects. I believe they will all be at Tucson with me in February. Time to book an Air B&B ??.

Quick note on the first ever annual Earth Bling Mineral and Music Fest put on by my friends Shane & Sherri Moore of Area 51 Miners: What a blast! Most times when we vend at mineral shows there's little time to talk with other vendors and just relax, but with the after hours get together Saturday night, many of us who knew each other casually got to know each other much better and to have a great time without worrying about our stuff. Live music, adult bev's, food and the company made it an event worth attending. The Blue Arrow Farm in Pine Creek, New York, just across the state line from New Jersey, is a great venue to hold an event even if a bit removed from major cities. This event was not sponsored specifically by an EFMLS organization, but the sponsors and most vendors are members or officers in several of our member organizations. I encouraged Shane and Sherri to figure out a way to have one or more EFMLS clubs co-sponsor next year so we can get the word out.

The Executive Board (EB) had an unofficial recurring meeting last month where we discussed finalizing edits to the automated directory and to start on the Operations Manual. That conversation will continue this coming meeting. \*

### Denver Mineral Show photos

from Bulletin of FM, June 2023

A extraordinary amethyst scepter from a little known locality, north of Coaldale, near Little Badger Creek, Fremont County. Exhibited in a joint case of the Best of Colorado by Bryan Lees and David Bunk.

*Mark Jacobson photo.*



The Dragon gold specimen, Colorado Quartz Mine, Mariposa County, California. This specimen is usually on display in the Houston Museum of Natural Science. In 2022, it was exhibited at the Hardrock Summit.

*Mark Jacobson photo.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirm details of events before attending.

**Oct. 28, 2023:** Ultraviolet Fluorescent-only Mineral Show, by R&M Club of Lower Bucks County. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. Sat. only, 9-4.  
<https://sites.google.com/view/lowerbucksparocks/shows>

**Oct. 28, 2023:** South Mountain Rock Swap & Sale, by Franklin County R&M Club. South Mountain Fairgrounds, west of Arendtsville PA on PA Route 234. Sat. only, 8-3. See Facebook Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club

**October 28-29, 2023** – 2nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Meteorite Show. Mount Bethel Fire Hall, next to the Mount Bethel Firehouse. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. 2341 N. Delaware Dr. (AKA Rt. 611), Mount Bethel, PA 18343. See Facebook Mount Bethel Gem Show

**Nov. 4-5, 2023:** Gemarama, Theme: World of Quartz, by Tuscarora Lapidary Soc. HALL D at the Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456. Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Online ticketing now available. Full details at <https://www.lapidary.org/gemarama/>

**November 10-12, 2023:** Friends of Mineralogy- PA Chapter Symposium, Johnstown, PA. Symposium for mineral collecting enthusiasts. Friday evening Meet & Greet; Saturday Hybrid Symposium - Online or In Person, and Mineral Show; Sunday field trip. SEE PAGES 1-3.

## 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](mailto:xidg@verizon.net), or 814-810-2116 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the December issue should be submitted by **December 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.

### FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA Chapter web site at [www.rasloto.com/FM/](http://www.rasloto.com/FM/)

And the new Facebook page  
(linked from the site above)

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

### 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](http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org)

We are now a member club of EFMLS:

<https://efmls.org>

## Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter Administrative Directory

### OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS members

President	Bill Stephens
Vice President	Dianne Soccio
Treasurer	Ron Sloto
Secretary	David Glick
	Mike Dunton
	William Kochanov

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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair	Ron Sloto
Field Trip Chair	Ross Elliott
Web Manager	Ron Sloto
Newsletter Editor	David Glick

[xidg@verizon.net](mailto:xidg@verizon.net)

(814) 810-2116

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