Friends of Mineralogy - Pennsylvania Chapter
Symposium & Show
by David Glick

The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown provided a very welcoming venue for FM-PA’s annual symposium for mineral collectors on November 11, 2023. See Bill Stephens’ report and the list of speakers and activities in the flyer on pages 6-8.

For the first time, there was a small but full-fledged mineral, fossil and gem show associated with the symposium; ten vendors had a wide variety of Pennsylvania and world-wide items. A silent auction and a giveaways table provided other opportunities for acquisition. There was also a showcase of some impressive Pennsylvania specimens from a private collection.

Multiple presentations concerned the New Paris quarry, the site of the symposium field trip on Sunday, Nov. 12 (see photo on page 8).

For more on FM-PA Symposia, see the programs and past newsletters on the web site, rasloto.com/FM/

DUES are DUE
It’s that time of year - a new membership year starts on January 1. If our records as of December 3 show that you have not renewed, a dues form is included with this newsletter. Thank you to all of those who have renewed or will renew; we value your membership!
Host Steve Lindberg and President Bill Stephens start the Symposium at UP-J on Saturday morning. D. Glick photo

FM-PA NEWSLETTER VOL. 51, NO. 4 DECEMBER 2023

TUCSON MINERAL SYMPOSIUM

from
https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/

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 is now available online via a link at <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>. By January 2, that page should also have a link for registering to view the symposium online on February 10.

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


DONATIONS WELCOMED

It’s that time of year! 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-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/.


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

-Editor

-Editor
Geology365.com Introduces Presenter Database of Speakers for Mineral Club Meetings

Official Announcement from the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable, the President of FM-PA and the EFMLS:

An informal collaborative group of Pennsylvania club Presidents/EFMLS member organizations, the Pennsylvania Presidents Roundtable (PPR), initiated this fall by CRPRM President, EFMLS 2nd VP and Social Media Director Andrew “Dirtman” Eppig, at my suggestion participated in a presentation by New Jersey FM Chapter President and Geology365 creator Ryan Klockner covering the general features of Geology365, but most particularly of the Presenters database set up within Geology365. This feature, adapted from his mentoring program code last year, is the ideal platform to host presenters, their profiles and catalogue of presentations that will allow member organizations to search the database by topic, mineral species or group, location or speaker without pestering or exposing the presenters to random calls and such. The platform provides for a “handshake” process where those seeking a presentation for their organization can reach out to the presenter to request a specific presentation and the presenter can respond without divulging sensitive contact information until the actual engagement is agreed upon.

Presenters do not need to be club or EFMLS member organization members. As a matter of fact, members can be individuals of any club or just individuals interested in other aspects of Geology365, such as the collection management features, the free club website, events notification and such, and actual presenters with no club affiliation. Ryan built Geology365 for everyone interested in gems and minerals.

We can solicit those we know have given talks before and invite them to log into Geology365 to set up their profile and input their catalogue. Help me get the word out. Leverage your relationships. Ryan will assist as needed with your login and password. I plan to start with a host of presenters who have presented at our symposia or the Tucson Symposia in recent years. Not to name names, but I’m sure you would recognize many of them. Once they have logged in and have their profiles and catalogue input it’s easy to update as necessary and also easy for any clubs logged in to search the database and initiate the handshake.

Ryan and I discussed this last year at the Friends of Mineralogy National Annual Meeting and the code had been completed middle of 2022, but unfortunately I had not seen an opportunity to promote it for a successful launch until last week when the PPR participants were on hand to hear Ryan’s presentation. It was so well received, as it should be, that we all decided to start utilizing it and populating the presenter’s database with our talks. I now have 13 of my presentations listed on Geology365’s presenter database. This initiative has the full support of FM National and several of our member clubs are now jumping onboard.

Perhaps the most important consideration, other than the code already exists and works fantastic, is that it’s completely free. Ryan has generously created and maintains Geology365 for the benefit of all clubs, US and abroad, in memory of his father who taught him to love mineral collecting. I plan to take advantage of the collection management software at some point. 😊

As President of FM-PA and the EFMLS, we at FM-PA will be adopting many features of Geology365 going forward, including the speaker database, as our organization has many gifted speakers with many presentations in the bag. As President of EFMLS, I am inviting all of our member clubs’ officers to check it out, try it out and see for yourselves. You do not have to use the website feature to use the presenter, events and other features; you just have to get set up with a username and password as President of your club and go from there. Ryan will be happy to assist but be respectful of his time as this is a labor of love and the tutorial will need to be scheduled in advance. He might actually have this recorded on the site so maybe all you need to get started is a username and password, and a handshake with the presenter!

I hope to have Ryan make his presentation to the next EFMLS Executive Board meeting and we’ll see how we might be able to provide a link to Geology365 from our website for your convenience.

Good luck and let us know what you think.

Take a few moments to review Geology365.com on the web, login and RSVP with your thoughts, questions and input. Set up and input your presenter profile & presentations!

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens PG, President
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, Inc.
Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter
In Memory of
Joseph A. Dague, Jr.
(11/8/43 - 12/7/22)
by Ed Goebel

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Philadelphia Mineralogical Society News
December 2023, Volume 130, Number 11

About one year ago today, we lost a giant in the Pennsylvania mineral community, Joseph A. Dague, Jr. Joe was a very passionate man, and one of his greatest passions was mineral collecting, especially within the boundaries of Pennsylvania. Joe would say to friends, “You know, I love everything about minerals: collecting them, trimming them, cleaning them, studying them, discussing them with others. . . I love how they look, how they feel.” Over the years, his expertise was called upon to assess and catalog the collections of private collectors (e.g., Bryon Brookmyer), prominent collections going to auction (e.g., Jay L. Lininger, Joseph Varady), and collections in colleges and universities (e.g., The University of Delaware). He was also called upon to curate mineral displays in private museums and educational institutions (e.g., Elizabethtown College). He gave mineralogical presentations to numerous clubs and organizations throughout the region. He collected, trimmed, and cleaned mineral specimens that he collected over several decades from all parts of Pennsylvania, and then he sold them to eager collectors at mineral shows, mostly in the central and southeastern regions of the state. He occasionally voiced frustration at what he perceived as a decline in the number of serious mineral collectors, but he never hesitated to offer his time and expertise to anyone who was sincerely interested. Although work took Joe as far east as Jenkintown, PA, and as far west as Austin, TX, he tended to gravitate back toward his roots in central Pennsylvania, spending much of his life in Clearfield, State College, and, most recently, near Chambersburg.

David Glick, President of the Nittany Mineralogical Society and Secretary/Newsletter Editor for Friends of Mineralogy – PA Chapter, shared that Joe and his wife, Jeanne (who passed away before him in 2014), lived in State College when the Nittany Mineralogical Society began in 1994. Joe was the club’s first Field Trip Chair. In addition to leading field trips, Joe provided mineral specimens for club use, for fundraising, and for meeting door prizes. Joe also started the club’s longest-term project, Minerals Junior Education Day, which provides students in grades 1-8 with demonstrations, discussions, activities, and specimens to keep. Held every year except during the pandemic, it has served thousands of young students (and their parents); in fact, 2023 marked its 25th year – quite a Legacy Joe left behind!

Joe’s good friend Robert C. Smith, II shared that Joe began collecting minerals and fossils in the Clearfield, PA area where he grew up. The best mineral to collect there was wurtzite, found in some siderite nodules. Wurtzite became his life-long favorite mineral, which he collected at several sites throughout Pennsylvania. Bob and other friends would offer wurtzite specimens to Joe from all over the world. Some pagoda-like specimens in his collection were incredible! Minerals structurally related to wurtzite, such as greenschistite and jordanite, were also some of his favorites. Joe had an impressive collection of self-collected Pennsylvania minerals and perhaps the best Pennsylvania thumbnail collection ever. He was excellent at visual mineral and locality identifications, but he enjoyed meeting Bob with flats of mineral specimens to play “stump the chump” (i.e., trying to confuse Bob with difficult identifications). Many friends enjoyed that Joe was a gifted storyteller whose sagas did well on “fact check”. 
Bob Smith, Steve Carter, and other friends are quick to point out that Joe’s first and foremost passion in his life was his wife, Jeanne. Minerals were a distant second, but, before she passed in 2014, Joe was most happy when collecting minerals with Jeanne. They spent countless days hiking, enjoying nature, and collecting together, and Jeanne also developed a good field eye for minerals. In fact, it was Jeanne who first discovered kimberlite at a new locality in Indiana Co., PA. She was his collecting buddy at many localities. One such place was near Schuyler, Virginia, where the two of them enjoyed iced tea on the porch of a local store after field collecting. Muddy and wearing tattered old field-collecting clothes, they were mistaken for being part of the local Walton clan, but they just smiled and posed for tourists asking to take their picture.

Jeanne’s passing in 2014 hit Joe hard, but he greatly appreciated the phone calls and visits from his friends, who rallied around him. He enjoyed discussing minerals with his good friend Steve Carter and viewing Steve’s extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection. Joe spent more field time collecting with his good friend Bryon Brookmyer and looked forward to hearing Bryon’s weekly field reports when Joe couldn’t go along. In appreciation for Bryon’s friendship, Joe prepared and submitted the information that led to Bryon being chosen for the prestigious Carnegie Mineralogical Award at the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in 2014.

I first met Joe about 18 years ago at the mineral auction for the late Jay L. Lininger (Jay had an extensive Pennsylvania mineral collection that was prepared and cataloged by Joe and Jeanne). Amazed and overwhelmed, I felt like “a kid in a candy store” until Joe helped to calm me down and narrow my focus for bidding. In 2/2017 Joe led me on a one-day tour of historical and active mineral collecting sites throughout Adams Co., PA. His knowledge and enthusiasm about the history, mineralogy, and geology of every site we visited was truly astounding – one of my most memorable days ever! Over the years, I have enjoyed getting to know him as a mineral collector but even more so as a person. He has generously provided knowledge, inspiration, wonderful mineral specimens, but, most of all, friendship. He will be missed dearly by all of us fortunate enough to consider him our friend. I have the feeling that Joe and Jeanne are looking upon us now, smiling hand-in-hand, and collecting together once again.

Joe Dague collecting at an old copper mine in his beloved Adams County, PA.  
Ed Goebel photo.

Joe Dague in the FM-PA Chapter
by David Glick

At FM-PA’s 2009 Symposium at Franklin & Marshall College, Joe gave a presentation on ‘An Informal Mineralogy of South Mountain.’ He squeezed an impressive amount of information into his time slot - so much that many in the audience gave up on trying to take notes. The biographical sketch he provided at that time said that he and Jeanne had been collecting minerals for 42 years, and that he had been a member of FM-PA for about 20 years.

Specimen (field of view 35mm) and its label, sold by Joe Dague. 
D. Glick photo
Annual Review and President’s Message
Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter
(FM-PA)
Bill Stephens, PG, President

This year has been a very busy and successful year for FM-PA Chapter, last year’s success notwithstanding. As I reported last year, our 2022 Symposium had a great turnout both at the symposium with 45 attendees and at the field trip to National Limestone Quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills with 20 attendees, including at least five of our seven Professional Geologists (PGs). We also joined the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), one of seven regional federations under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. EFMLS currently has 8257 adult and 957 junior members in 92 clubs, up from approximately 7000 members in 85 clubs last year. FM-PA, by unanimous vote of the Board, joined EFMLS at the end of October 2022 and now enjoys the benefits of the outreach offered through EFMLS, of which I am President again until 2024.

What a year for us! We began planning our 2023 Symposium very early this year and voted to accept the offer made by Steve Lindberg, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) "Geology" Department, to host us this year. The venue was UPJ’s Living-Learning Center main hall, and lobby which included a showcase. UPJ is in western Pennsylvania, far from our comfort zone in the Delaware-Chester-Lancaster Counties area of southeastern Pennsylvania where we have traditionally held our Symposia for decades. We were aware that we would be leaving many of our lifelong and older members behind, but we anticipated acquiring new members and a broader audience with assistance from our UPJ partner, as well as having the ability to run an actual mineral show and utilize the display to show some champion Pennsylvania specimens. Our gamble was a huge success as noted below.

Preparation for the symposium was more involved than ever before. We required prior group rate hotel arrangements, show room and symposium room layouts as well as layout for the registration area in the lobby that had to be approved by the University. We coordinated with a relatively unknown collector to have the largest smithsonite ever found in Pennsylvania as well as many exceptional large calcites and other Pennsylvania minerals, most featured in the Eureka supplement published by the Mineralogical Record, displayed in the trophy case in the main lobby of the facility. We also had to modify the registration forms to include options for meals, and made a completely new dealer registration form for online registration. We modified/updated our logo and purchased table covers for our registration and head tables. We reduced the symposium rates and opened the show to the public for free. Advertising was considerably more extensive than usual. I believe all of these planning measures were new to us and were facilitated by our host, UPJ.

The symposium included an informal gathering on Friday evening at the main hotel where about 20 gathered for fun and shared stories; then we toured UPJ geology facilities and went to the basement to pick out some free rocks. On Saturday, the symposium and show ran simultaneously in separate rooms. Our hybrid meeting was better attended than last year, and we had a lot of new faces including two student speakers. Several talks, including three student talks and my joint talk with Steve Lindberg, focused on the New Paris Quarry field trip venue, which is now an educational geologic and collecting site known for fluorite and abundant Upper Silurian-Lower Devonian marine fossils. The symposium flyer is included below.

For our Annual Meeting always held at our symposium, which lasted only a few minutes :), we re-elected incumbents Mike Dunton and Dave Glick and elected two new board members:
• Andrew "Dirtman" "Rockhound" Eppig, who is our social media guru. Andrew is President of the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club (CPRMC) and was recently elected 2nd VP and Social Media Director of the EFMLS, both of which are executive board voting positions. Andrew has been producing the "Dirtman Reports" which air on Jeri Jones' rock room bi-weekly. You can search on YouTube and watch back episodes at your convenience.
• Mark Sigouin, PG, an existing member and professional geologist who is also an accomplished musician.

Note that all officers on the slate were elected, and at the next board meeting conducted via Zoom the board voted to continue the current officers in office and approved the annual meeting minutes. I anticipate there will be some changes on the Board as Ron Sloto is looking to pass on the Treasurer's office and the website he manages for us, which might cause some other shuffling of positions.
Some of the important statistics and activities at the 2023 symposium are:

- Total attendance in person and online was 66 this year versus 45 in 2022. The breakdown was 37 pre-registered online, 27 members, 10 nonmembers; 10 onsite registered, 5 members, 5 nonmembers; 14 students signed in at the registration desk; 5 non-member speakers.
- 8 new members including 2 students, versus 1 new member last year.
- 13 PGs attending and requesting certificates for 6 credits versus 7 PGs last year for 5 credits.
- Public attendance not counted (?) but over 50 not registered for the symposium based on visual estimates making the overall event attendance over 100.
- We made a substantial profit when we normally just break even.
- The entire meeting was successfully recorded this year with no material hiccups, using an Owl meeting device and hybrid Zoom setup.

I attribute the success of the event to a number of factors: effective assistance from our host Steve Lindberg and staff at the facility, the fantastic facility itself and partnering with the "geology" department and Geology Club, effective advertising, reducing rates and opening the show to the public, having an actual show with dealers from outside the FM-PA membership. With respect to the increase in PGs, in addition to our formal advertising and my efforts, Kristen Hand of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey and organizer for the annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG) distributed our information to all the registrants of the FCPG 2023 conference after the conference was cancelled due to budgetary issues at the state level.

The field trip always follows the day after the symposium, and it was exceptionally well attended. There were at least 20 vehicles and we estimate, subject to confirmation, that attendance was not less than 40, double last year.

The field trip site was the New Paris Quarry, which has become a field study site for UPJ, and has been visited by FM-PA before as a multi-club field trip. Steve Lindberg leads trips to the quarry on a regular basis.

This limestone quarry, now inactive, has the Silurian-Devonian boundary exposed, abundant fossils, and two bentonite layers (possibly three). Some of the largest...
fluorite specimens found in Pennsylvania came from that quarry, though the main vein is currently covered. It was one of the field trip stops of the 2002 Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists (FCPG), and the geology is detailed in the field trip guidebook/road log for that conference, available online. Our symposium brought new information to light on the geology, mineralogy and paleontology of this quarry including not yet published research by myself and UPJ Students and faculty. My work in advance included drone based high resolution mapping, spatially fixed structural observations (some of which correct published information) and plotting of calcite veins (some fluorite-bearing), and bentonite bed elevations. Students presented information/research on the conodonts that moves the Silurian-Devonian boundary upward in the LaVale member, fluorite origins, geochemistry of and possible identification of a new bentonite bed, while Steve provided the foundational description of the site.

The success of this year's symposium and our partnership with UPJ, so far from "home base", cannot be ignored, and we are giving serious consideration to doing it again next year. I and the Board would like to thank our host Steve Lindberg and the "Geology Department", Geology Club, students and the UPJ Living-Learning Center staff for all their help. I'd also like to thank Mike Davis for generously allowing us to display some of his great finds as featured in the Eureka Supplement to the Mineralogical Record, and Kirsten Hand of PAGS and organizer for the FCPG for getting the word out to PGs about our pre-approved CEUs for symposium attendance. It worked. And thanks to our new and existing dealers who helped make the show a success and our hard working and effective Board of Directors, first for agreeing to this gamble, and all their hard work.

During the course of the year the FM-PA has issued its newsletter, maintained its membership and services to its members, and members have been conducting research. I am aware Ron Sloto is working on another county Mines and Minerals Book, continues to do research at West Chester University (WCU) and probably has something in the works on a new amethyst discovery brought in by a non-member.

I have been/am very active with the EFMLS as its President, guiding the development of automated functions on the EFMLS.org website with our vendor Madhouse Graphics; that includes a fully automated club directory which FM-PA is in, and other functions, as well as leading that organization to success. I have been doing some mapping projects that will come to light next year, and I'm working with Daryll Powell on a minimally technical book highlighting the discovery of extraordinary skeletal "Herkimers" by Lee Levesque earlier this year; it will be available at Tucson. I also helped Lee and the men of "Twoguysonehole", who had an extraordinary discovery of fluorite at the Blanchard Mine this year, get introduced to Peter Megaw and secure cases to display their finds at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show this year. I've had several speaking engagements this year, including our symposium, guest speaker at the EFMLS annual convention in Syracuse, and the Harrisburg Area Geological Society (HAGS); and Ryan Klockner and I are making progress with the speaker/presenter database in Geology 365 we set out to do two years ago (see page 3).

I hope to run a hybrid/ live streaming Zoom at the FM National Annual Symposium so that many who cannot afford or take time to attend in person can see the fantastic lineup of speakers Mark has pulled together for 2024, without burdening Mark with the dual duty of managing the "zoomers" and the in-person meeting. That includes PGs looking for credits.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the National Board meeting and symposium in Tucson. I will be in town 12 days this year.

Sincerely,
Bill Stephens, PG, President
FM-PA & EFMLS
WILDACRES WORKSHOPS
May 13-19, 2024

From EFMLS News
December 2023, Volume 70, Number 12

Wildacres is located in a beautiful and peaceful setting on top of a mountain. Its location makes it the perfect place to unwind while learning a new, refreshing an old, or updating a skill. New participants are welcomed with open arms as well as those returning. Lifetime friendships and even marriages have been forged due to participation in Wildacres. You may arrive as a stranger, but you go home with new friends. While at Wildacres, you are exposed to the beauty of the setting, with new ideas, expert teachers, and talks by a well-known speaker-in-residence.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 session at Wildacres May 13-19 for your first or another great experience on top of the mountain. Final plans are in the works and will be printed in the EFMLS News and updated on the website when finalized. In the meantime, you may want to plan ahead and reserve the dates on your calendar. To date, classes in Intarsia, Beading, and Wire Working have been confirmed. Other class offerings are in the process of being finalized.

The Speaker-in-Residence will be Mike Colella, who will be accompanied by his wife, Sue. Mike is a man of many talents and has been a professional photographer for decades, speaking on his photography and many hobbies:

- Sands of the World, discussing his collecting from around the world and will show some of the more exotic samples of his collection.
- Suiseki, the ancient art of viewing stones, its history, collecting, and how he takes stones from collection to final display. Slides and live examples will be presented.
- Wood Art, how he creates it.
- Being a Professional Photographer, from photographing gems and minerals to wines of Europe and travels to Alaska.
UPCOMING EVENTS
Confirm details of events before attending.

Feb. 10, 2024: Tucson Mineral Symposium, by Friends of Mineralogy. Online viewing is planned. See page 2.


Mar. 8-9, 2024: Micromount Symposium by Leidy Microscopical Society. Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, Richboro PA 18954. Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6; https://leidymicroscopical.com


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 days and evenings. Mail can be sent to 425 Armagast Rd., Bellefonte PA 16823. Materials for the March issue should be submitted by February 29.

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.