



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

VOL. 42 No. 3

FALL 2014

President's Message

There have been three Board of Directors meetings in 2014, the latest of which was September 5 at the USGS office in Exton. Several issues have come up lately, and let's talk about them.

As reported in the last issue, Jim Stauffer resigned as secretary, with the Chapter's thanks for his years of service. This resignation shortens the board one position until filled. In addition, George Rambo has resigned his position on the board of directors, and we likewise owe him our thanks for his years of service to the Board and the Chapter. With the vice-president position already having been open, this means we are **seeking volunteers** for three positions; please contact me if you might be interested.

We have two great member events coming up shortly. The first is an **October 11th field trip to Brinton's Quarry**, an old serpentine quarry. Actually, it is the western-most portion of the quarry that is dry and full of tailings and talus. No scuba gear is needed. We will use a backhoe to unearth the hidden treasures. Should be lots of fun, and maybe we may see some pegmatite... maybe (can I say that?). If you have not yet provided your RSVP to me, please do so.

The second event is the **November 1st symposium** at Franklin and Marshal College which is also our annual membership meeting, and subsequent November 2nd field trip to Cornwall. This year's symposium theme is "Pennsylvania's Mineral Heritage." Every year we look forward to the symposium. There is still space left for a good presentation. Six presentations and six (6) CEU's is the goal this year, but we only have four (therefore 4 CEU's) so far. Anybody with a good idea for a presentation, please come forward with your abstract. The **November 2nd field trip** (for symposium registrants only) will be innovative, in that we are meeting up with the Delaware Mineralogical Society, whose kindness will allow for a dual site visit at a newer locale within the Cornwall dumps. In the morning, we will meet at the usual front gate location along Boyd Street probably around 9 a.m., and then a couple hours later change venue westerly to a location proximal to the Iron Valley Golf Club. Of course, this could always change so keep in touch, and visit the website frequently for the latest information.



And finally, if you have a good idea for a field trip, contact any board member and we will try to make it happen. We are always open to joint ventures with other clubs.

Financially, the club seems to be breaking even. Dues are consistent at \$20/person, \$15/student or those over 62 years old. There are currently 65 members in good standing of which 5 are life members. The symposium fee is currently \$15 for members, but may increase. New membership helps to keep the dues consistent. If you would like to sponsor a new member, complete the application form on the FM-PA website. Then come out to one of our events. Last year the symposium may have turned a \$50 profit, but that might be due to a speaker refusing a stipend.

Keep the chisel down.

Joseph Marchesani

OFFICIAL NOTICE

A brief Annual Meeting of the Membership, including elections, will be held at the Symposium on Nov. 1, 2014.

Please consider volunteering to stand for election to the Board - contact the President if you could do so.

Symposium Presentations Scheduled So Far:

Mining History of the Serpentinites, Pennsylvania and Maryland

Stephen Shank, Pennsylvania Geological Survey

Xenoliths of the Triassic Passaic Formation in the Monocacy Hill diabase intrusion, Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Robert Kulp, West Chester University

The French Creek Iron Mine - A Collector's Memories of a Lost Mineralogical Treasure

Bill Stephens, PG, Stephens Environmental

The Fritz Island Mine, Cumru Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Ronald A. Sloto, U.S. Geological Survey



Vincent J. Matula, 1922-2014

Friends of Mineralogy Life Member Vince Matula, 92, of Walnutport passed away peacefully Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Lehigh Valley Hospital Muhlenberg. He is survived by his wife Margaret, three daughters and a son, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Margaret, for whom the mineral matulaite (discovered in 1977 in Northampton County) is named, is also a life member of FM. Vince and Marge would have celebrated 68 years of marriage on September 7th, and are well known as avid mineral collectors, and supporters of the mineral collecting interests of others, throughout the region.

Vincent had served in the 254th Military Police Company, Yukon Territory Alaska Defense Command, and worked at Electro Chemical Engineering & Manufacturing for many years. He was a charter member and past president of the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, and a life member of the Friends of Mineralogy.

FM-Pennsylvania Chapter extends its deepest condolences to Marge and the family. Remembrances may be submitted online at www.reichelfuneralhome.com and an obituary may be found by searching the "Obits" page there. Memorial contributions may be presented to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

- Editor

Jeanne L. Dague, 1948 - 2014

FM member Jeanne Dague, wife of Joe Dague, died at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA on August 20, 2014, following a prolonged illness. She had retired from her job at Valley Quarries in 2013, and was 66 years old. Joe and Jeanne's activities as long-time mineral dealers, collectors, donors, and advisors have supported mineral collectors in Pennsylvania and the region in many ways.

The obituary at www.obitsforlife.com reports that in addition to mineral collecting activities, Jeanne enjoyed miniature quilting and classical music. She is survived by husband Joe and two nieces, daughters of her late brother.

FM-Pennsylvania Chapter extends its deepest sympathies to Joe and the family. Contributions may be made in her name to Chambersburg Hospital, 112 North Seventh St., Chambersburg, PA 17201.

- Editor

Symposium: Specimen Donations Needed

A **giveaway table** is a long-time tradition at our symposia, but it has shrunk in recent years. Those specimens that are duplicates or surplus for you may be just what another collector is looking for. Please bring them!

We'll have a silent auction of **donated material** as usual; please bring your labeled specimens, books, tools, etc. for that. The proceeds help us to keep symposium fees low.

New this year will be a **50/50 silent auction** for some better specimens; we'll keep track of the source of each item and the donor will receive half of the sale price. Please bring these early to allow for the extra bookkeeping, and note a minimum bid amount if desired. Donors, buyers and the chapter will all benefit!

- Editor

Mount Pleasant Mills Field Trip

reports by Johnny Johnson III and Elise Juers
and photographs by Stan Molchanow

Our Chapter enjoyed a field trip to the National Limestone quarry at Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County, PA, on June 28. Some locality details can be seen on MinDat: www.mindat.org/locdetailed-228894.html

Johnny Johnson reports:

On sunny and bright Saturday, June 28th, about 15 FOM-PA members gathered at the National Limestone Quarry in Mount Pleasant Mills for a day of collecting. Owner Eric Stahl gave us a safety talk in the quarry office, showed us examples of what we might find, and offered Bibles and books to anyone interested as he shared his testimony and how much he loves mineral collectors. We donned our safety gear and most of us headed up to the top of the hill to look for bright green wavellite in the brown sandstone. The sandstone in the tall bank was weathered and fractured and recent heavy rains had cleaned off some of the rocks. Looking for telltale signs of green we went to work looking for more vuggy material. Some large plates and superior specimens were found digging partway up the bank. There was plenty to share and go around so nobody left empty-handed. Some of these will clean up very nicely and reveal more of the striking green globules and sprays. Some micros and small quartz crystals were also recovered. All in all, a very nice day of collecting and not too hot was had by folks from both ends of the Commonwealth and beyond.

Collecting at MPM was excellent that day - both for wavellite and calcite crystals! Hats off to Eric for continually allowing collectors and clubs access to the quarry!

Elise Juers reports:

There were about 14 people for the quarry collecting trip. Mr. Stahl greeted us and showed us several specimens that came from the quarry. These specimens included calcite crystals, wavellite, strontianite, and variscite. Also shown to us were some fossils which included a cephalopod and a trilobite, the first found there. He also showed us some of the speleothem type specimens from his other quarry at Middleburg. These specimens included flowstone and a double stalagmite.

It was a beautiful day, sunny with blue skies, about 80 degrees with a breeze. Several members of the group started at the main pit looking for calcite crystals while others went immediately to the wavellite collecting area. The main pit consists of limestone of the Helderberg group which has evidence of folding and some minor



The main quarry pit at National Limestone 's Mount Pleasant Mills quarry. *S. Molchanow photo.*



Strontianite on calcite from main pit. *S. Molchanow photo.*

faulting. This is the area where one looks for calcite crystals and fluorite. The calcite crystals that were found during this trip were not large, but had good crystal structure and were relatively clear. One small vein of fluorite was also found. The other portion of the main pit area is a metamorphosed limestone. This rock is darker in color and has a shiny surface along the rock faces.

Eventually, most everyone made their way up the ridge to the upper strata wavellite collecting areas. The rock in this area is sandstone in which brachiopods are found within the matrix. They are not abundant, but still are relatively easy to find. Spiriferids and scallops were primarily what I noted. The sandstone is highly fractured and blocky. Pieces range from 6 inches across to about 16 inches and can readily be removed by hand. Red clay like soil is also present - sometimes hiding the

wavellite. The wavellite gives some of the rock a slight green color and occasionally vugs are seen which contain wavellite nodules. These veins that were seen on this trip were very narrow - only a few mm wide and difficult to split. Most of the wavellite found was in the form of BB sized nodules on the rock surface. The color ranged from clear to a yellow green to green. Some pieces found by Ed and Gene had small quartz crystals with balls of wavellite. Five or six people worked pit #1 along the right side of the road. Ed, Gene, and Elise found some nice specimens after some serious digging. The wavellite at this locality is unusual as it does not appear to be from a hydrothermal solution although some hydrothermal solution must have been present, but rather deposited as a secondary mineral from the leaching of phosphate from the marine fauna within the sandstone.

Other people were at the pits further up the road and atop the hill. I don't have a report on their results.

A Thank-You card was sent to Mr. Stahl by Elise on behalf of the Friends of Mineralogy.



Collecting wavellite in the fractured sandstone on the ridge. *J. Johnsson photo.*

FOR SALE: Long-time Pennsylvania collector John 'Pen' Ambler in Hollidaysburg has books, specimens and more for sale. Pen reports: "I have some 10 - 15 cartons of books on mineral and mineral related subjects. My cataloged collection consist of upwards of 6,000 specimens some of which were the Ed Carper collection. The specimens are cabinet, small cabinet, hand-sized, miniature, thumbnail and micro minerals. Many of the minerals are PA and eastern U.S.; however, it is a varied collection. There are lapidary materials (slabs and some bulk); limited fossils; tumbled stones including PA amethyst; UV materials and equipment; supplies (boxes, etc.)." Please contact Pen by email: bridger@atlanticbb.net

From the Editor

David Glick

THANK YOU to everyone who has been providing material for the Newsletter! Everyone else - join the fun! **Please provide materials for the next issue by December 1, 2014.** Feel free to contact me at xidg@verizon.net, or 814-237-1094 days and evenings (especially Thurs-Sat., otherwise leave a message).

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 (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** to make them worthwhile!. 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 may be deducted from your federal income tax. Donations of any size help to offset the general operating costs of the Society, helping to keep dues low.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 27-28, 2014: 58th Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Show, by Franklin - Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society & Franklin Mineral Museum. Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington Avenue, Franklin, NJ. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (indoors); 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (outdoor swap and sell). Also Garage Sale at Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Christiansen Pavilion, Sat & Sun 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - See more at: <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/visitor/schedule.php#events>

October 4, 2014: Fall Mineralfest - Mineral Fossil and Gem Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Ass'n. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA 8:30 - 3:00. <http://www.mineralfest.com/>

October 25, 2014: South Penn Fall Swap & Sale by Central Penn and Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs, at South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles west of Arendtsville, PA on route 234 (Address for GPS: 615 Narrows Rd, Biglerville, PA 17307). Adults \$1.00; Children free. 8:00 to 3:00. \$10 to set up, first come basis to set up. Located in covered pavilion. Food stand. Contact Tom Smith: tsmith1012@comcast.net

October 25, 2014: 25th Ultraviolation - Fluorescent-only Mineral Show / Swap / Sell, by Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, at First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd., Fairless Hills PA 19030. Sat. only, 9-4. See p. 6. www.mineralevents.com/flyers/2014ultraviolation.pdf

November 1-2, 2014: Friends of Mineralogy - PA Chapter Symposium (Nov. 1, Lancaster, PA) and Field Trip (Nov. 2). See p. 1&2. <http://www.rasloto.com/FM/>

FM on the WWW

Please explore the FM-PA web site at www.rasloto.com/FM/

National News

National FM newsletters, 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			
Treasurer	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	
Secretary			

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	
Symposium Chair			
Field Trip Chair			
Web Manager	Ron Sloto	rasloto@aol.com	
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Grants Chairman	David Saja	dsaja@cmnh.org	(216) 231-4600 x3229
	Curator, Cleveland Museum of Natural History		

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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David Glick	xidg@verizon.net	(814) 237-1094
Fred Stohl	flstohl@yahoo.com	(732) 341-3553

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



Friends of Mineralogy Pennsylvania Chapter
2014 Fall Symposium
“Pennsylvania’s Mineralogy Heritage”
Saturday November 1 and Sunday November 2, 2014

Symposium Location - Ground floor room 119
Hackman Physical Science Laboratory Building
Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Program:

Saturday November 1 Doors open 8:30 AM Registration – Speakers - Silent Auction and give away table. Speakers include Bill Stephens, Robert Kulp, Steve Shank, and Ron Sloto

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS (PDH) AVAILABE FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

Sunday November 2 Field Trip (location to be announced)

----- Cut here -----

NAME _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ email _____

Name for badge _____

FM PA Chapter Member	_____	X	15.00
Students with student ID	_____	X	Free
Non Member	_____	X	25.00
Dues payment for 2015	_____		(Senior 62 and older \$15 Students \$15 regular \$20)
TOTAL enclosed	_____		

NEED MAP? Y N MOTEL LISTING? Y N

NEED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS (PDH) CERTIFICATE? Y N

NOTE: FIELD TRIP OPEN TO SYMPOSIUM REGISTRANTS ONLY -- FULL SAFETY GEAR REQUIRED

Hard hat, safety glasses, steel toed shoes are REQUIRED for this trip !

Please Check if you plan on attending field trip ()

Please complete and send this form along with your check to:

Ron Sloto
P.O. Box 13
St. Peters, PA 19470-0013