

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY Pennsylvania Chapter NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2012

President's Message



The field trip was not only a lot of fun, but very successful! The morning broke clear and cold with a brisk breeze. About 15 members attended the outing to National Limestone Quarry, just outside of Mount Pleasant Mills, PA (see photographs on page 2). Many, if not all, found nice specimens of wavellite, calcite, strontianite, and celestite. The pits up on Lime Ridge had the overburden removed. This made digging and just searching the waste piles for wavellite very productive. I saw many fine specimens come from these areas. Members traveled good distances to get here for this event, one as far away as Tennessee - makes me wonder where the rest of you were?

Meanwhile, down in the quarry, other members were filling up on calcite crystals along with strontianite, and small, but some very nice pieces of celestite that were discovered in one boulder. Later, some of the members got permission to visit the quarry at Middleburg. All in all, it was a fine day to collect as the weather warmed up. I look forward to seeing you all on our next field trip.

In other Chapter news, the Board met at my house February 25th to plan the coming year. There were other members in attendance who volunteered to assist us with Field Trips, and planning the Symposium for November 3rd & 4th at Franklin and Marshall College, in Lancaster, PA. There will be a silent auction, a give away table, a few dealers, and 4 or 5 speakers. There will be a Field

Trip on Sunday, Nov 4th. More to follow, as we put together this event. Check our website <<http://www.rasloto.com/FM/>> for updates and current information.

The Board voted Dave Glick to the Board at the February 25th meeting. Mr. Glick is also the Newsletter Editor. Welcome Dave, and thanks for your help! In other Board news, past-President Doug Rambo has stepped down from the Board as Treasurer. Doug has helped run this organization with me over the years. Other duties are precluding Doug from holding an office or Board position with us. Thanks Doug for your help! Ron Sloto will be stepping in as our new Treasurer. Ron also maintains our website as Webmaster and also serves on the Board.

If you got an email about the field trip that's great – if you didn't or you received a snail mail letter, it means we don't have an email address for you or the one we have is incorrect – Please get your email to me at Pieche@verizon.net or drop me a line, I'll be happy to add it to the list.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2012, **this will be your last newsletter**. If you have any doubt as to whether you're paid up or not, you may contact me.

Arnold Mogel
President FMPA Chapter

Our DUES are:

\$15.00 for Seniors (62 and over) - also
\$15.00 for students
\$20.00 for regular members

Dues may be sent to:

Friends of Mineralogy PA Chapter Inc.
P.O. Box 158
Friedensburg, PA 17933-0158

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SAVE THE DATE

**FM-PA FALL SYMPOSIUM
and FIELD TRIP
NOVEMBER 3 - 4, 2012
Franklin & Marshall College
Lancaster, PA**



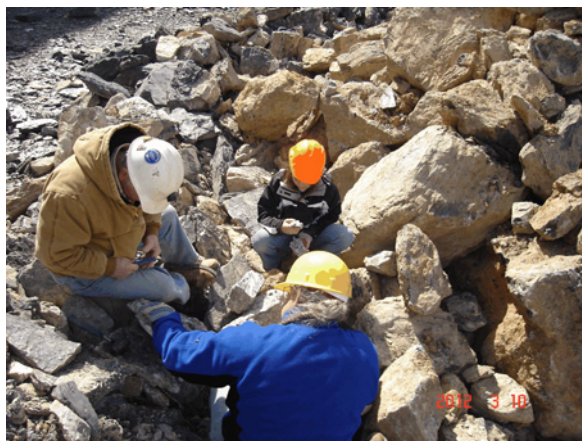
Road and excavated material at wavellite locality on Lime Ridge, above the quarry on National Limestone Co. property. Photo by Jim van Pelt.



The main pit at National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills. Photo by Jim van Pelt.



Members Eugene Deible (left) and Ed Echler dig for wavellite specimens. Photo by Arnold Mogel.



Arnie Mogel (left), Duff Gold and daughter Abbey Gold (top) look for plates of calcite crystals in the quarry. Photo by Jim van Pelt.



The Board and other volunteers met on February 25th. From left: Doug Rambo, Richard Condon, George Rambo, Ron Sloto, Arnold Mogel, Jim Stauffer, David Glick, Bill Kochanov. Photo by Cathy Mogel.

Remembering Floyd Faux A Collector with Character

by Pen Ambler

Floyd Faux, a long time resident of Bethlehem, was an active and enthusiastic mineral collector for over 50 years. During this time he collected and acquired enough mineral and fossil specimens to fill the basement and attic of his home, plus fill a three-car garage. In the middle of this extensive accumulation, Floyd had a collection of museum quality specimens. Through study and association, he developed an encyclopedic knowledge of mineralogy.

Floyd remembers that he started collecting minerals as a boy, but when he went to college, his mother threw his collection out. It wasn't until 1932 that he got back into collecting as a serious pastime. During his long years as a collector, he developed active relationships with George Gehman of Lehigh University, Allen Heyl of U.S. Geologic Survey, Arthur Montgomery of Lafayette College, Richmond Meyers of Moravian College, Bill Heacock and others. In the mid-1930's, Floyd became Secretary for the newly formed Rocks and Minerals Club of Lehigh Valley. During the early 1950's, he was one of the leaders of the newly formed Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania. He, also, helped found the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association in 1964.

He enjoyed sparking the enthusiasm of youngsters in elementary schools when he gave presentations on minerals and fossils. He particularly liked to awe them by showing the specimens that would fluoresce and phosphoresce under an ultra-violet light.

On long field trips across North America, Floyd discovered many people with similar enthusiasm for the hobby. He collected anecdotes and shared them when he talked with other collectors and with neophytes to encourage them to pursue collecting and the chance of discovering new minerals or a superb pocket of crystals somewhere over the next hill or down the next trail.

Another road Floyd used to inform collectors was by writing articles for newsletters and magazines. One article was found in *Rocks and Minerals*, November 1935, with a report entitled *Aragonite at Allentown, Penn.* by F. R. Faux. This had to do with workmen at the Ziegenfuss Quarry at Allentown blasting into an

underground cave. Allen Heyl visited the quarry and reported many beautiful formations and several successive chambers, each beautifully covered with stalactites and arborescent formations. At present (1935), the main chamber is in the process of destruction leaving two small chambers as yet untouched. There were nine rooms in all, each connected by a small alley or natural tunnel.

A favorite quotation was "There's always something to be learned, and you have 86,000 seconds a day to learn it."

Celestine for Pennsylvania State Mineral

from Royce Black

Editor's note: Although the facebook page is titled "state rock," they are indeed working toward having it designated the state mineral. Activity has continued since the note below was posted in January; the Facebook page reports on a meeting in Harrisburg on April 3.

I am a 6th grade student at Commonwealth Connections Academy. I did a science paper on what would I like to have as a state rock/mineral, and I was excited to find that there was none already listed. So, I am on a journey to get Celestine named as the Pennsylvania State Mineral. I am working with Representative Stephen Bloom to start a resolution, and he has explained the steps involved. I am currently in the 'lobbying' step. I am drumming up state wide support of my intent to have Celestine become the state mineral.

On the link below, is my facebook page, and clicking on '**like**' is a vote in favor of my quest!! Also on my page, is a link to my science paper <http://user.pa.net/~dkblack/index.html> that I wrote for this assignment. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/PA-State-Rock-Celestine/221235861288507>

Would you be interested in helping me? Would you pass the message on to [others] to help support me?

Thank you,

Royce Black

Deb Black

Mineral Notes...

PLATINUM GROUP MINERALS NEW TO PENNSYLVANIA

By Ron Sloto

A recent paper by Smith and Barnes (2011a) described several minerals new to Pennsylvania containing platinum group elements: ruthenium (Ru), rhodium (Rh), palladium (Pd), osmium (Os), iridium (Ir), and platinum (Pt). The minerals occur in the chromite deposits of the State Line District serpentinites in Chester and Lancaster Counties. Their existence was determined using scanning electron microscopy/energy dispersive spectrometry analysis (SEM/EDS). The minerals were identified from 36 polished sections made from 24 chromite ore samples collected from mine dumps and outcrops.

The 34 minerals listed below occur as microscopic grains in massive or banded chromite (Smith and Barnes, 2011b).

Arsenopalladinite $\text{Pd}_8(\text{As},\text{Sb})_3$
 Braggite $(\text{Pt},\text{Pd},\text{Cu},\text{Ni},\text{Ir})\text{S}$
 Erlichmanite $(\text{Os},\text{Ru},\text{Ir})\text{S}_2$
 Ferronickelplatinum $(\text{Pt},\text{Ir},\text{Pd})_{.53}\text{Ni}_{.24}\text{Fe}_{.23}$
 Godlevskite $(\text{Ni},\text{Fe})_9\text{S}_8$
 Hollingworthite $(\text{Rh},\text{Pt},\text{Ir})\text{AsS}$
 Irasite $(\text{Ir},\text{Rh},\text{Pt})\text{AsS}$
 Iron $(\text{Fe},\text{Co},\text{Ni},\text{Ir},\text{Pt})$
 Kotulskite $(\text{Pd},\text{Ni},\text{Cu},\text{Co},\text{Pt})_3(\text{Te},\text{As},\text{S},\text{Bi})$
 Laurite $(\text{Ru},\text{Os},\text{Ir})\text{S}_2$
 Majakite PdNiAs
 Malanite $\text{Cu}(\text{Pt},\text{Ir},\text{Rh},\text{Ni},\text{Cu})_2\text{S}_4$
 Melonite $(\text{Ni},\text{Pd})\text{Te}_2$
 Menshikovite $\text{Pd}_3\text{Ni}_2\text{As}_3$
 Naldrettite $(\text{Pd},\text{Ni})_2\text{Sb}$
 Nickeline $(\text{Ni},\text{Co})(\text{As},\text{Sb})$
 Omeiite $(\text{Os},\text{Ru},\text{Ir})(\text{As},\text{S})_2$
 Orcelite $\text{Ni}_{5-x}\text{As}_2$ where $x=0.23$
 Palladoarsenide $\text{Pd}_2(\text{As},\text{Sb})$
 Stibiopalladinite $(\text{Pd},\text{Cu},\text{Ni})_5\text{Sb}_2$
 Platinum (Pt,Ir)
 Polydymite $\text{Ni}^{2+}\text{Ni}^{3+}\text{S}_4$
 Ruarsite $(\text{Ru},\text{Ir},\text{Os},\text{Ni})\text{AsS}$
 Shandite $\text{Pb}_2(\text{NiCu})_3(\text{S},\text{As})_2$
 Sobolevskite $(\text{Pd},\text{Pt})(\text{Bi},\text{Te},\text{As},\text{Sb})$
 Sperrylite $(\text{Pt},\text{Ir})\text{As}_2$
 Stibiopalladinite $(\text{Pd},\text{Cu},\text{Ni})_5\text{Sb}_2$ and/or
 $(\text{Pd},\text{Cu},\text{Ni})_7\text{Sb}_3$?
 Tellurobismuthite $\text{Bi}_2(\text{Te},\text{As})_3$

Telluropalladinite Pd_9Te_4
 Tetraferroplatinum $(\text{Pt},\text{Ir})_{.49}(\text{Fe},\text{Ni},\text{Cu},\text{Co})_{.51}$
 Tulameenite $(\text{Pt}_2,\text{Cu},\text{Ni})\text{Fe}$
 Vincentite $(\text{Pd},\text{Ni})_3\text{As}$
 Vysotskite $(\text{Pd},\text{Pt},\text{Ni},\text{Cu})_{.45}\text{S}_{.55}$
 Wustite FeO

The two minerals listed below were reported from ferrogabbro in the Interstate 83 roadcut at Reeser's Summit in York County by Smith and Barnes (2009).

Sudburyite $(\text{Pd},\text{Ni},\text{Cu})_{.49}\text{Sb}_{.51}$ or $\text{Pd}_{.49}(\text{Sb},\text{As})_{.51}$
 Ungavaite $(\text{Pd},\text{Cu},\text{Pt})_4(\text{Sb},\text{As},\text{S})_3\text{Pd}_4(\text{Sb},\text{As})_3$

The two minerals listed below were reported from the State Line District serpentine barrens in Chester and Lancaster Counties by Smith and Barnes (2008).
 Baddeleyite $(\text{Zn},\text{Hf})\text{O}_2$
 Osmium (Os,Ir)

References

- Smith, R.C., II, and Barnes, J.H., 2008, Geology of the Goat Hill serpentine barrens, Baltimore Mafic Complex, Pennsylvania: *Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science*, v. 82, no. 1, p. 19–30, available online at <<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/geology.pdf>>.
- Smith, R.C., II, and Barnes, J.H., 2009, Sudburyite, safflorite and other microminerals in the platinum-group element enriched ferrogabbro, York Haven Diabase, Reesers Summit, York County, Pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania Geology*, v. 39, no. 1, p. 6-15, available online at <<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/pageolmag/pdfs/v39n1.pdf>>.
- Smith, R.C., II, and Barnes, J.H., 2011a, Geochemistry and mineralogy of platinum group elements in some chromite occurrences in the State Line District, Chester and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania Geology*, v. 41, no. 3/4, p. 3-13, available online at <<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/pageolmag/pdfs/vol41no3-4.pdf>>.
- Smith, R.C., II, and Barnes, J.H., 2011b, Platinum group minerals sampling and analytical methods and tables, available online at <<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/pageolmag/pdfs/supplement.pdf>>.

John H. Way

Long-time FM-PA member John H. Way, Ph.D., died on February 21, 2012, at age 68, as reported in The Patriot-News on February 23 (search at <<http://obits.pennlive.com/>>) and in the Lock Haven Express on March 2 <<http://www.lockhaven.com/page/content.detail/id/537358/>>. A professional geologist, he had worked at Pennsylvania Geologic Survey, then taught at Lock Haven University for about 20 years, retiring as professor of geology in 2004.

John was also active outside the university, bringing his geologic expertise to community affairs and environmental concerns, particularly ground water resources. He led field trips and gave talks to inform the public about geological principles, proper collection of data, and application of the scientific method.

At the time of this writing, his "Bald Eagle Geoelectrical Services" web site is still available at <<http://www.baldeaglegeotec.com/BEgeodHP.htm>>. The web site includes informative sections about Hyner View State Park, Fossils at Red Hill, *Arthropycus alleghaniensis* (trace fossil of burrows in sediment), Why is there a bald spot on Bald Eagle Mountain?, and A Citizen's Guide to Water Resources in Clinton County, PA. - Editor

Recently in PA Geology Magazine

The Pennsylvania Geologic Survey's magazine, Pennsylvania Geology, went online-only in 2009 and is available as a PDF from their web site at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/pub/pageolmag/magindex.aspx>

The final issue for 2011 (volume 41, numbers 3/4) is now available. It includes an 11-page, illustrated article by Robert C. Smith II and John H Barnes on platinum group elements in Chester and Lancaster Counties (among them are some minerals new to Pennsylvania, as noted in the article on page 4 of this Newsletter). The National Coal Resources Data System, and the possible ending of its Pennsylvania component due to lack of funding, are described in an article by Leonard Lentz. The 2010 book *Pennsylvania Crude - Boomtowns and Oil Barons* is reviewed by John Harper; it's a "coffee table book" including photographs of the oil region and its historic industry. Eight new Survey staff members are introduced, and others who received 25-year longevity awards relate some interesting stories. New publications include bathymetric maps of lakes in four state parks, and an Open-File Bedrock Geologic Map of the McCoysville Quadrangle, Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry Counties. - Editor

Editor's Message

by David Glick

As many already know, some of the biggest news this season is that National Limestone Co. and its **Mount Pleasant Mills** and **Middleburg Quarries** are up for sale. I believe that FM-PA and a long list of other clubs and collectors owe a huge **thank-you to owner Eric Stahl** for his many years of collector-friendly operation, including our recent field trip. He is doing his best to accommodate field trip requests which are now coming in from clubs far and wide. It would be wonderful if new owners would continue that policy!

I appreciate the supportive comments I've received about the last issue, and the interesting recollections that came along with them. Martin Anne pointed out that in addition to the previous Newsletter editors who I mentioned, Don Schmerling should be remembered for his efforts as the first editor and for spreading the word about the Chapter. I've been thinking that one way to maintain the value of over 40 years of effort by all of the writers and editors would be to convert the entire run of Newsletters to a searchable digitized file. I'm not ready to start this project yet, but if you would consider loaning a good set of the early Newsletters or have other comments, I'd be happy to hear from you.

Materials related to Pennsylvania mineralogy are invited for this newsletter: articles, long or short; announcements from FM-PA committees; photographs of specimens, field localities, collections, etc.; reports about books or articles published 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. We are producing four issues each year; your material is needed to make sure they have some substance. If you know people who have interesting material, please encourage them to submit it.

Please provide materials for the next issue by June 10, 2012. Future deadlines will be September 20 (for the final issue before the November 3 symposium) and November 10 (reporting on the Symposium and requesting dues payments by December 15). Thank you!

Feel free to contact me (xidg@verizon.net, or 814-237-1094 days and evenings, or 209 Spring Lea Dr., State College PA 16801) to provide material or discuss any of this.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19-22, 2012: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Rochester, NY. www.rasny.org/MineralSymp.htm

April 28-29 2012: New Jersey Earth Science Ass'n Gem & Mineral Show by FOMS, NJESA & Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington Av., Franklin, NJ.

May 12, 2012: South Penn Rock Swap - SPRING SWAP by Franklin County & Central PA Rock and Mineral Clubs. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles West of Arendtsville, PA on Route 234. Sat only, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 19-20, 2012: "World of Gems and Minerals" by Berks Mineralogical Society. Rt 61, 7 miles South of I-78, Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport PA. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.

May 31-June 2, 2012: Rock, mineral & fossil yard sale by Tom Smith, 10 Roger Ave., 2.1 miles N of the center of Shippensburg, just off Rt 696. Thurs. evening 6-8, Fri & Sat 8-1. 717-552-6554 or tsmith1012@comcast.net

June 2, 2012: Spring Mineralfest by Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. Saturday only 8:30 - 3:00. www.mineralfest.com

Sept 15-16, 2012, Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Convention, and Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club Annual Show, Harrisburg.

October 27, 2012: South Penn Rock Swap - AUTUMN SWAP by Franklin County & Central PA Rock and Mineral Clubs. South Mountain Fairgrounds, 1.5 miles west of Arendtsville, PA on Route 234. Sat only, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nov 3-4, 2012: FM-PA Symposium & Field Trip, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. ✨

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

DONATIONS WELCOMED

The 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.

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