FOMS NEWSLETTER — 2026.02

Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

FRANKLIN, NJ

February 2026



MULE HAULING WASTE ROCK TO BUCKWHEAT DUMP, FRANKLIN, NJ.
CIRCA 1895–1912, FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM

Executive Committee Update

WORK UNDERWAY
The Executive Committee met on January 21 with a full and ambitious agenda. At that meeting, we moved from ideas to action—adopting a clear plan and a practical framework for moving the Society forward. These steps were approved unanimously by the Executive Committee. In short, the tracks are laid, the mules are pulling mine cars, and the work has begun.

COMMITTEES & CONTACTS
You'll find an updated list of committees and committee chairs on the second page of this newsletter. These committees are the engine of the Society's work, and we encourage members to reach out with questions, ideas, or interest in getting involved.

SCHEDULES & CALENDARS
To better serve members near and far, FOMS digs are now listed well in advance. Be aware you must be a member and **RSVP** one month in advance and confirm by **registering** two weeks in advance. To do so, email: digs@foms-nj.us . Expect further information and a reminder by mid-February.

We are also publishing the Franklin Mineral Museum schedule for your reference, and we are listing nearby mineral shows and events hosted by other societies and clubs, particularly those within the broader region where many of our members are active.

Our newsletter email:
newsletter@foms-nj.us



LEFT TO RIGHT, *HENRY ALTHOEN, ALICE KRAISSL, FRED KRAISSL*,
CIRCA 1958–1963, BAUM HALL, FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM, FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY

Announcements

FOMS MEETING, for members and the public:
Saturday, March 21st, 1:30–3 p.m.
Kraissl Hall, Franklin Mineral Museum

1. Dr. Earl Verbeek will be giving his talk from the GANJ October 2025 conference. See downloadable Guidebook and data.

2. Routine club business and communications will be discussed.

LEADERSHIP

RETIREMENTS

Bernie Kozykowski, Trustee
A dear friend, a longtime member and leader, miner, architect, a gentleman of many fine words.

Mark Dahlman, Future Rockhounds of America
A man of knowledge and reserve, a longtime member and leader, an educator of our youth.

NEW FOMS MAILING ADDRESS
Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society
PO Box 10
Stockholm, NJ 07460
MEMBERSHIPS: NEW & RENEWALS
FOMS has a new and improved Internet link, that will help you more easily sign up or renew immediately and track your membership. We now allow you to share your interests and preferences during your renewal.

You will need to be a member for digs.

SERVING YOU
What would you like as a member? Please contact the newsletter and tell us. We are open to your suggestions and ideas as we are reshaping the Society to better serve you and your needs. Were you a member 20 years ago, and you remember something you liked then? Are you brand new and have fresh ideas? We want to hear what YOU have to say!!!



WILLEMITE & RHODOCHROSITE, PARKER MINE, FRANKLIN FURNACE, N.J.,
AUGUST 27, 1920, MINERAL SPECIMEN LABEL OF HAROLD HOWE HODGKINSON,
FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM, FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY

Committees

ADVANCING OUR SOCIETY IN 2026

Executive Committee
Chair: Vice President I

Constitution Committee
Co-Chairs: Earl Verbeek and Tommy Hennighan

Science Committee
Co-Chairs: Earl Verbeek and Charles Merguerian

Digs & Field Trips Committee
Co-Chairs: Dave Wellbrock and Vice President I

Internet Committee
Co-Chairs: John Kushmerick and Dave Kaminski

Events Committee
Co-Chairs: Tommy Hennighan and Ed Frisbie

Auditing Committee
Chair: Mark Kucera

Newsletter Committee
Chair: Dave Kaminski

Banquet Committee
Co-Chairs: Lois Verbeek and Vice President I, with Ed Frisbie

Some of the committees will be filled internally and others will need volunteers. If you have a special talent and want to offer it, let us know.

The committees most in need of member help and volunteers are the Events and Newsletter Committees. Please get in touch with us about both!

Contact Banquet Co-Chair, Lois Verbeek in advance for a banquet reservation during the fall show. The Banquet will be Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Email: loismverbeek@gmail.com
Cell: text, or call: 201-317-4040
Home phone: 973-786-5763



ALASKITE, FRANKLIN COMMERCIAL LOCALITY, FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY
SPECIMEN MEASURES 12 x 8 x 5.5 CM. MINERALS: MICROCLINE (WHITE) AND QUARTZ (GRAY).
PHOTO ID: ERV-1175 | FMM-2658, FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM
PHOTOGRAPH BY EARL R. VERBEEK

2026 Shows and Upcoming Events

NATIONAL AND NEARBY
January 28–February 15, Winter Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase, Tucson, AZ
February 12–16, Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®
February 21–22, Crystal Fest, Corning, NY
March 7–8, Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Wilmington, DE
March 7–8, Meriden Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Show and Sale, Meriden, CT
March 13–14, Leidy Micromount Symposium, Richboro, PA
March 14–15, Gems, Jewelry & Mineral Show at The Metropolitan Pavilion, NYC
March 14–15, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Buffalo, NY
March 14–15, Rock & Mineral Show, Winsted, CT
March 21–22, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, Gaithersburg, MD
March 28–29, Che-Hanna Gem & Mineral Show, Wyoox, PA
March 28–29, Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair, Plymouth Meeting, PA

FOMS DIGS and MEETINGS 2026
All FOMS meetings and digs are held on Saturdays.
Members only on digs due to insurance; join or renew.
RSVP one month ahead. **Register** two weeks in advance.
To do so, email: digs@foms-nj.us
Expect further information and a reminder by mid-February.

Not all locations are confirmed. Plan on 8:30 a.m. meetup, 9 a.m.–12 noon dig.
The monthly FOMS meetings are held at Franklin Mineral Museum from 1:30–3 p.m.

March 21, Fowler Quarry, 8:30 a.m. meetup at FMM, 9 a.m.–12 noon dig.
Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
Dr. Earl Verbeek will be giving his talk from the GANJ October 2025 conference. See downloadable Guidebook and data.

April 18, Braen, Franklin Quarry / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
May 16, Sterling Hill, open cut / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
June 20, Taylor Road Dump / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
September 26, Hamburg Quarry / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
October 17, Braen, Lime Crest Quarry / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited
November 21, Andover Mine, / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., FMM, public invited

FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM DIGS ONLY 2026
April 25, Mill Site pile dig at FMM, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
April 25, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
June 6, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
July 18, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
September 5, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
October 3, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
November 7, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

FRANKLIN MINERAL MUSEUM 2026
April 24-26, Spring Mineral Sale
April 25, Spring Swap and Sell (indoor and outdoor sale)
April 25, Daytime dig on the Mill Site pile at FMM, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
April 25, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
June 6, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
July 3-September 6, Summer Mineral Sale
July 18, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
September 5, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
September 18-20, Fall Mineral Sale
September 19-20, Fall Mineral Show (indoor and outdoor sale)
October 3, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.
November 7, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

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