Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

Digs & Sales - April Midmonth Update

!! > New link < !!
You can now RSVP for all the digs at once with Google.
Use the QR code above, or open the form here.

FOMS DIG: APRIL 18, 2026 (SATURDAY)
Braen Franklin Quarry
Meet 8:30 a.m. at Braen Franklin Quarry,
280 Cork Hill Road, Franklin, NJ, for sign-in.
Orientation at 8:45 a.m.
All PPE required, no minors.
Members join or renew
*See Braen Franklin Quarry webpage with mineral list links to and *The Picking Table* article lists for each mineral. Thank you, youth member Itsuki, for your work compiling this list!

FOMS MEETING: APRIL 18, 2026 (SATURDAY)
General Membership Meeting
1:30–3:00 p.m. Open to members and the public
Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin, NJ

Speaker
Ryan Klockner
"The Importance of Cataloging Minerals in Private and Shared Databases." (1 hour) As the creator of Geology365.com, Ryan explores why cataloging a mineral collection is more than just record keeping—it's preservation of history, value, and knowledge. He'll look at how collectors documented specimens in the past, examine real examples where provenance and written history dramatically increased a specimen's significance, and discuss the risks of relying on memory alone.

The talk will then transition into practicable, modern techniques for cataloging, including a walkthrough of how collectors can efficiently organize, track, and preserve their collections using Geology365. Whether your collection is small or museum-scale, this session will show how proper documentation turns "just rocks" into a lasting legacy.

Speaker / Demonstration and Training
Ted Bayles, owner of Franklin Mineral Rock And History, Franklin, NJ
"Understanding Willemite from Franklin and Sterling Hill."
Hands-on training and Q&A. Ted will bring a flat of willemite specimens in assorted colors. (30 minutes)

Franklin Mineral Museum & Sterling Hill
April Digs & Sales

Visit the Franklin Mineral Museum page (notice nj at end), that has all the latest information about the digs. (The other FMM site is not correct.)
April 24–26, Spring Mineral Sale, Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin, NJ
April 25, Swap and Sell (outdoor) Franklin Firehouse, Franklin, NJ, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
April 25, Mill Site pile dig at Franklin Mineral Museum, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
April 25, Night dig on Buckwheat Dump at FMM, 6:30–10:30 p.m.
April 25–26, Sterling Hill Garage Sale, Sterling Hill, Ogdensburg, NJ, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

FOMS Board at the Spring Sale

April 25th, at the FMM outdoor sale at the Franklin Firehouse, 137 Buckwheat Road, you will see members from the FOMS Board. As a reminder, here is the current FOMS Board:

Officers (2026–2027)
David Vonderheide, President
VP1
Tommy Hennighan, VP2
Tema Hecht, Corresponding Secretary
Dave Kaminski, Recording Secretary
Denise Kroth, Treasurer
Mark Kucera, Assistant Treasurer

Trustees
Dick Bostwick (2026–27)
Stephanie Koles (2026–27)
John Kushmerick (2026–27)
Charles Merguerian, PhD (2026–27)
Earl Verbeek, PhD (2025–2026)

Looking Ahead to May Dig and Meeting

FOMS DIG: MAY 16, 2026 (SATURDAY)
Sterling Hill, open cut
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sterling Hill Mining Museum for sign-in.
30 Plant St., Ogdensburg, NJ 07439
Orientation at 8:45 a.m.
All PPE required, no minors.
Members join or renew.

FOMS MEETING: MAY 16, 2026 (SATURDAY)
General Membership Meeting
1:30–3:00 p.m. Open to members and the public
Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Ogdensburg, NJ

Did you not receive the 2025 *Picking Table*?
2025 Members: The belated 2025 *The Picking Table* should have arrived at your listed mailing address by the second week of March. We mailed it, but some people have not received it! SORRY! **If you did not receive it, please contact us and we will follow up promptly. Contact pickingtable@foms-nj.us**

Update on *The Picking Table* 2026
2026 Members: Expect two volumes of *The Picking Table*. We are working on them now. There will be a summer issue and a fall issue.

FOMS Contacts

Contact us at any time by email:
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