FOMS NEWSLETTER — 2026.05

Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

FRANKLIN, NJ

May 2026

UV-1 Edison Tunnel, Sterling Mine, Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Photograph by Jeffrey R. Glover

May Dig and Meeting

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

***DIG UPDATE* FOR ALL 2026 DIGS**
MEMBERS ONLY ON DIGS (CHECKED AT SITE)
RSVP REQUIRED, ONE WEEK PRIOR TO DIG
NO ADDITIONAL RESERVATION NECESSARY
To RSVP, use the Google form for all digs
or email:
Email: digs@foms-nj.us

DIG: MAY 16, 2026 (SATURDAY)
Sterling Hill, open cut
Meet 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.
Members join or renew.

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

Speaker
Dr. Charles Merguerian
"Exploration and Geology of the Earth's Moon"
Dr. Merguerian will discuss the geology of the Earth's moon against the backdrop of the history of space exploration and discovery including pre-1969 sci-fi movies and world literature that accurately predicted our coming conquests.

You cannot view the whole newsletter in your email alone!
View this email in your browser
See link at top of all newsletters!

Looking Ahead to June Dig and Meeting

DIG: JUNE 20, 2026 (SATURDAY)
Taylor Road Dump
Meet at Franklin Mineral Museum at 8:30 a.m.
(no bathrooms, closed in the morning) for 9 a.m.–12 noon dig.

MEETING: JUNE 20, 2026 (SATURDAY)
General Membership Meeting
Franklin Mineral Museum 1:30–3:00 p.m.
Open to members and the public.

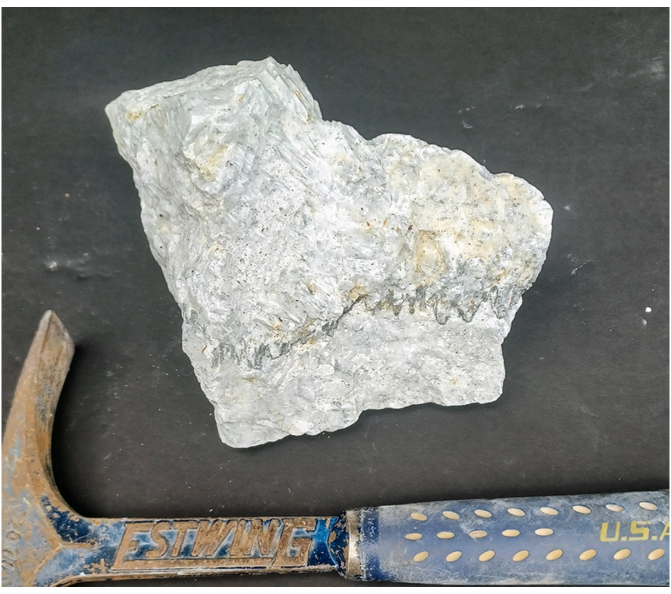
Franklin-Braen (Franklin Quarry) Dig Report

On April 18, 2026, 45 members of FOMS attended the dig at the Franklin Quarry. The weather was sunny and calm, making it a perfect morning. We met at the quarry, performed our MSHA safety training certification, and our caravan headed down to a reserved area where freshly-blasted material was laid out for us in two large piles. Within minutes, our members were already picking up interesting specimens. Pyrite, chalcopyrite, fluorite, graphite, and norbergite were abundant. A very large fluorite, nearly 10 pounds, was found within the first hour. One small team drilled and feather-wedged a boulder to reveal a long fluorite vein, which was broken up into smaller samples. Dr. Charles Meguerian pointed out the brittle fault zones for us, and some members collected slickenside fault specimens.

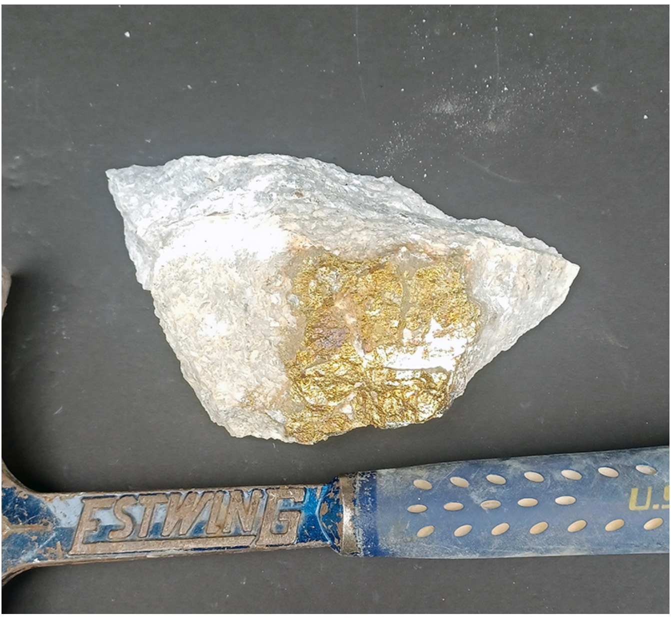
I would like to thank Mr. David Wellbrock, our dig coordinator, for handling all of the arrangements for us to have this dig. The attendees extend their sincere gratitude to Mr. Mark Deighan and Braen Stone for allowing us to have this wonderful event.

Franklin Quarry Specimen Photos

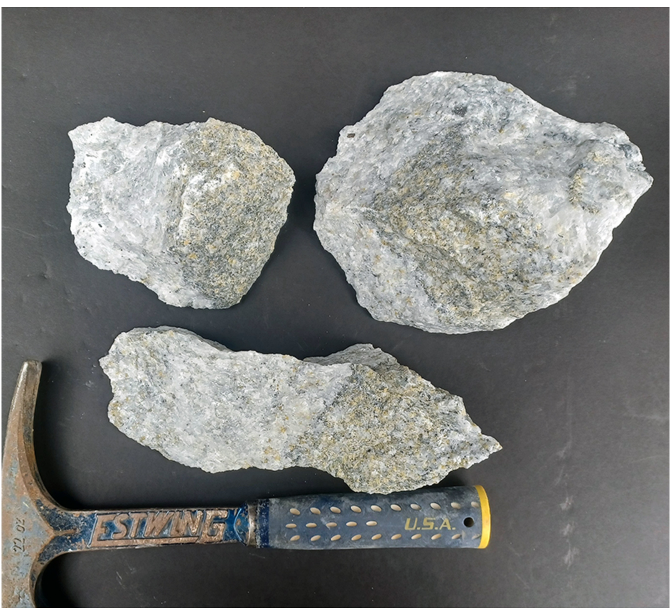
by Dave Wellbrock, Dig Chairman



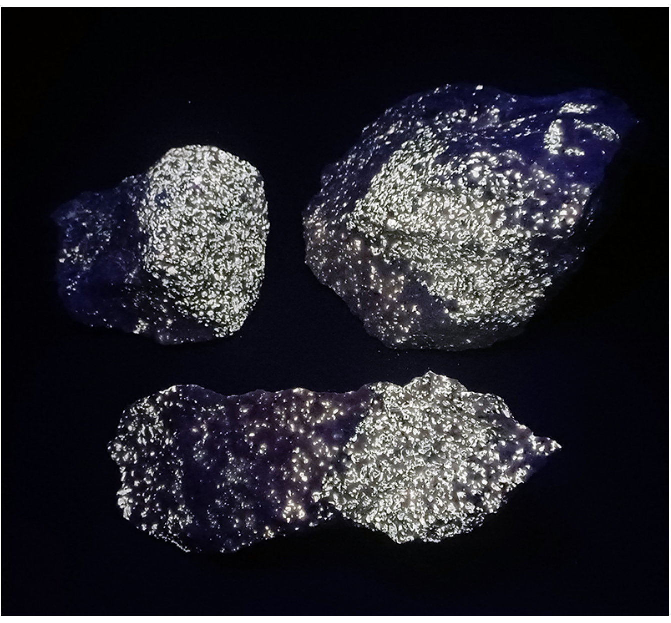
Stylolite, Franklin Quarry, April 18, 2026. Photograph by Dave Wellbrock



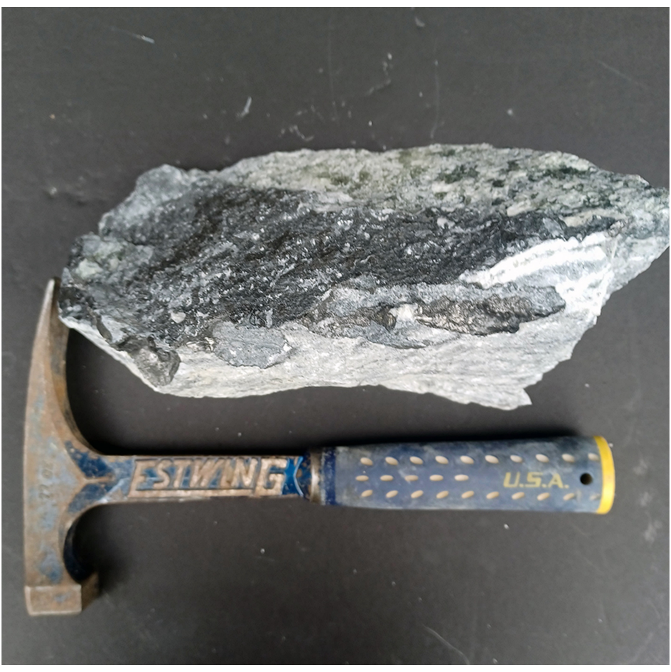
Pyrite-Chalcopyrite, Franklin Quarry, April 18, 2026. Photograph by Dave Wellbrock



Norbergite, Franklin Quarry, April 18, 2026. Photograph by Dave Wellbrock



Norbergite SW, Franklin Quarry, April 18, 2026. Photograph by Dave Wellbrock



Graphite, Franklin Quarry, April 18, 2026. Photograph by Dave Wellbrock

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Local Quarry & Dig Photo Request

(Get us photos of your rocks!)

FOMS ARCHIVE / DATA REFERENCE / MEMORY BOX

…an ongoing, and likely never-ending request for
field photos as well as very good photos of minerals…
of proper local provenance

The Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society has been collecting high-quality photos of minerals for the Archive / Memory Box. Consider helping us by donating photographs and also videos. Multiple photos in daylight (up to 4–15, if needed) and as many UV photos as required are encouraged. Storage space is not our challenge–it is getting the photos and videos themselves.

Consider mineral specimens that have good provenance, items that have been self-collected with good notes, or others whose minerals guarantee their location.

If you have something you cannot identify but have decent photos, that is fine. Send the photos!

Local quarry photos are, in particular, expected to be a relatively quick photo with some way to measure size, and if you have a Kodak color strip, you are welcome to add that. These are the initial records of what can be found. Dave Wellbrock's photos above perfectly illustrate what we need for local quarry photos. We can always ask you for a better photo later, or ask one of our photographers to get a new photo.

As for the perfect photo? We have all experienced the challenge of getting good or even great photos and videos. Do not let that challenge keep you from participating, as we have photographers in our membership who may be able to help, and our photographic resources are being built out this year.

The best specimens and the best photos are expected to be further curated, and we expect that some will be requested as part of the FMM permanent collection or will be sought by partner institutions.

If you have already posted them to mindat or another location, please send them to us anyway.

If you are part of an institution and would like to partner with us on our archive, please contact us. We are happy to share images and specimens. We are seeking institutional partners for this project.

For a few photos:
Please list the minerals and relevant details (dimensions, weight, SW, MW, LW) and provide your name, contact info, and email your photos to info@foms-nj.us.

For larger files and more photos and videos:
Contact us at info@foms-nj.us for file transfer through Dropbox, Google Drive, and other service that have proper capacity.

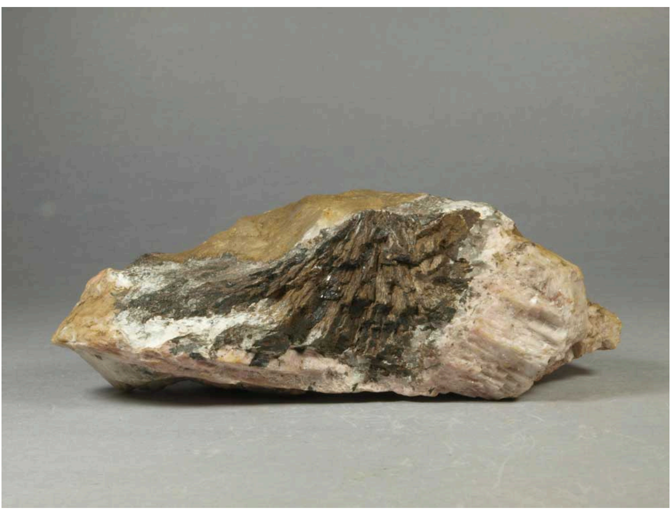
Banquet

Contact Banquet Co-Chair, Lois Verbeek, in advance for a fall Banquet ticket. The Banquet will be Saturday, September 19, 2026.

Our auction will take place after the dinner. Please contact Lois for information.
Email: loismverbeek@gmail.com
Cell: text or call 201-317-4040
Home phone: 973-786-5763

Society Contacts & Websites

SOCIETY EMAILS
info@foms-nj.us
digs@foms-nj.us
membership@foms-nj.us
newsletter@foms-nj.us
pickingtable@foms-nj.us



SHMM-1242,-Unknown--Sterling-mine,-NJ,-16x8x6-cm,-view-2. Sterling Hill Mining Museum specimen SHMM-1242. Dimensions 16 × 8 × 6 cm. Earl R. Verbeek photo.

2026 Shows and Upcoming Events

May 2–3, New England Gem & Mineral Show, Topsfield, MA
May 2–3, MSNEPA. Pittston Mineral Show, Yatesville, PA
May 2–3, Berks Mineralogical Society, World of Gems and Minerals, Leesport, PA
May 6–10, The Spring NJ Gem Show, Edison, NJ
May 9–10, Quartz Fest Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, Canandaigua, NY
May 11–17, EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, near Little Switzerland, NC
May 15–17, New England Mineral Conference (NEMC), Newry, ME
May 16–17, Cape Atlantic Rockhounds Spring Show, Mays Landing, NJ

June 6, PESA, Mineralfest, Macungie, PA
June 6, Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science, Kent, CT
June 6, (rain date June 7), NEMA Mineral Tailgate Sale, Poland, ME
June 6–7, GemFest, Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club, Canandaigua, NY
June 12–14, Gem Miner's Spring Show, West Friendship, MD

FOMS DIGS and MEETINGS 2026
All FOMS meetings and digs are held on Saturdays.
Members only on digs due to insurance. Join or renew.

DIG UPDATE
RSVP one week ahead is all that is required.
To RSVP, email digs@foms-nj.us

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., except for this May.

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May 16, Sterling Hill, open cut / Meeting 1:30–3:00 p.m., Sterling Hill, 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
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
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.

Advertising

The FOMS newsletter and *The Picking Table* will now begin to feature advertising. Please contact the newsletter or *The Picking Table* for more details.

BUY & SELL
COLLECTIONS
Franklin & Sterling Mineral Rock
and Artifacts

"Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World"

Franklin Mineral Rock and History LLC

124B Main Street, Franklin, NJ, 07416

Mr. Ted Bayles - Owner
973-862-9348
RareFranklinMineralRock@gmail.com

Hours: Sat 10am - 6pm
call or text for appts weekdays
FranklinMineralRockandGem.com

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