Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society

Sterling!
Saturday, May 16th
Updates

ARRIVAL
The gate at Sterling Hill **opens at 9 a.m. Try to arrive at 9, no earlier, no later. (That is an updated time.)** If the gate is closed, do not block or park near the gate on Sterling Hill Road. Instead, park along Plant Street, which is long, straight, and runs along the lower side of the property. Also, consider Walmart, McDonalds, and Starbucks in Franklin if you arrive early and would like to shop, eat, or use the bathroom.

PARKING & PAPERWORK
Once the gate opens at 9 a.m., park in the large gravel lot to your left as you drive in.

Meet at the pavilion for all paperwork and orientation. Collecting is from 9am until noon.

To save time at the site, please fill out, print, and sign the Hold Harmless from Sterling Hill Mining Museum before you arrive. Here's a link to that document: https://www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/s/HoldHarmlessAgreement_adult.pdf
We'll have copies of the Sterling Hold Harmless available at the site if needed. Also, you will sign the FOMS waiver (signin sheet), which we will have at the site.

ORIENTATION
The usual safety rules – stay away from highwalls, stay out of tunnels, stopes, and excavations, do not climb anywhere, or on top of anything (berms, boulders, small hills). Stay with the group and ask questions if you have them. Use common sense.

There are several paths in and out of the area we are going to. Stick to the road along the fence, go past the garage, and turn right to the collecting area. Please remain paired up, or with a larger group so you do not become disorientated.

Some raspberry and brambles: stepping off the trail a bit can get you into some brambles, so wear proper pants. Use PPE. Tick spray is highly recommended.

COLLECTING
This area contains minerals of scientific interest. Avoid picking up items if you have no idea what they are. Do not smash rocks in hopes that something will reveal itself. (That can be a winning strategy on a night dig at Buckwheat Dump, but it is inappropriate in this location). Expect fluorescent and non-fluorescent minerals. Just because it is not fluorescent does not mean another collector does not recognize it or want it. Leave it behind if you are unsure for possible future scientific investigation. No power tools. Please avoid serious digging.

Bill Kroth has set aside some premium ore for us that he says is the brightest of the greens and reds on the property. That is expected to be $3-$4 a pound. Thank Bill if you see him. He has made decisions to improve the trip and to generously host us. Thank Denise, too. (She is our FOMS Treasurer.)

Expect that there may be limits to total poundage. While that has yet to be determined, a recent trip to this area had a limit of the non-ore of about 5 pounds.

PHOTOS
We will be taking photos of members, the trip, and rocks, as per usual. If you do not want to be included, do not stand in a group photo, and also alert Dave Kaminski.

Take photos of your specimens in the field and at home, and send in to the newsletter or discuss with Dave Kaminski.

LUNCHTIME
Expect our digging to end about noon. Bring a drink and a sandwich and eat on the pavilion picnic tables, or buy a hotdog and drink from the museum's food bar. Bathrooms are inside. This is a rare occasion to stay and chat about rocks without going elsewhere after a dig. FOMS board members will be staying at the location for lunch. Drive to a meal in town if you would like.

Our FOMS meeting and speaker begin at 1 p.m., as indicated in the newsletter.

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.

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Our mailing address is:
Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, Inc., PO Box 10, Stockholm, NJ 07460-0010 USA

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