

Spring 2022 Wildacres Speaker-in-Residence: Dr. Nathalie Brandes

We are very fortunate to have another fabulous Speaker-in-Residence for the Spring 2022 session of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop, Dr. Nathalie Brandes, a geologist, author, and distinguished college professor and researcher. The Wildacres workshop will take place May 16 to 22, 2022.



Photos courtesy of Nathalie Brandes: left, at Laurium Mine in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, middle, at Calumet Waterworks Park also in the Keweenaw Peninsula, and right, one of her published books.

Nathalie Brandes grew up studying geology from a very early age traveling around the world with her geologist father. She earned her BS and MS in geology at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech). While in New Mexico, her research focused on the Rio Grande Rift. After working at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, she continued her doctoral studies at Michigan Technological University.

Nathalie is Professor of Geosciences at LoneStar College- Montgomery, in Conroe, Texas, north of Houston, teaching for the past seventeen years. In 2019, she was presented the Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding teaching methods and dedication to student success in the classroom and beyond.

Her teaching career began at Michigan Tech, where she taught various geology courses, including the Teachers' Earth Science Institute, which was a special teacher education program funded by the National Science Foundation that utilized mineral science and mineral processing to enhance the teaching of science in middle and high schools. For her efforts in making this program a success, Nathalie was presented a Distinguished Service Award.

Nathalie's current research focuses on ancient mining techniques as well as the history and geology of classic mineral localities. She frequently presents the results of this research at the New Mexico Mineral Symposium in Socorro, New Mexico and occasionally writes short articles, and has published several

books. She has won writing awards from the American Federation of Mineral Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies for her articles. Nathalie is a member of the Management Team for Mindat.org, as well as on the Board of Directors for the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy. She is an active member of the Geological Society of America, the Geological Association of Canada, the British Micromount Society, the New Mexico Geological Society, The Russell Society, and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration.

Nathalie's hobbies include travel, photography, reading and writing; her latest book, *New Mexico Rocks, A Guide to Geologic Sites in The Land of Enchantment*, was published in October 2021.

Nathalie plans to give these six presentations at Wildacres:

Goldfield, Nevada - Short but Sweet, a look at the last major gold rush in the United States

Michigan's Copper Country, an overview of the geology and beautiful minerals of the world's largest native copper deposit

The Fabulous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway, the history, geology, and spectacular silvers from this legendary location

Mining in the Ancient World, an overview of mining techniques from the Stone Age to Roman Times (one of her most popular talks)

History of Mineralogy, looking at how people have studied minerals from Ancient times to today

Geology of Birthstones, a look at how the twelve birthstones are formed (a new talk specifically for Wildacres).

Nathalie, or Nat, will be accompanied by her husband, Paul Brandes, also a geologist and photographer and an expert on Michigan's Copper Country. She will be a terrific new Speaker-in-Residence and we are thrilled that she is able to come to Wildacres. We welcome her in our Wildacres community!

Bio by Helen Serras-Herman