

The Danburite

The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2642, Danbury, Connecticut 06810-2642

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NEXT REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2009
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM - MEETING STARTS AT 8:00 PM
THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE MILL RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

DMS WEBSITE <http://www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org>

AFMS WEBSITE <http://www.amfed.org/> EFMLS WEBSITE <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>



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2009 SEMINAR

Unless the weather turns bad the Annual Seminar is on for Sunday Jan. 11.

If you need to be reminded; The DMS Annual Seminar will be Sunday Jan. 11 2009 at Franco's Resturant in Brookfield. The doors are open at 4:30 in the afternoon, there is a open bar and meatball appetizers. Dinner is scheduled for 5:30. The menus is exactly as noted last month, pasta course , salad course, main course and desert, with coffee or tea. All beverages are additional to be paid by the members. If you haven't done so please contact Bob Burke at his home phone 203-775-7032 a tell him you will be coming so he has an accurate head count for the meals and seats. Also tell him how many of each entree you will need for your party. The choices are Steak, Chicken Marsala or Salmon. Bring your checkbook to the seminar if you haven't paid already. Check our website for additional details- see the link above

The next meeting is Feb. 5 2009 at the usual Intermediate School. the program has not been announced.

The speaker for the Seminar is Ted Johnson

his subject will be

The Mines & Minerals of Cornwall, England

*Collect underground at the Geevor Tin mine. Now flooded, it was one of the last operating tin mines in this classic mining area

*Visit several old mines in the area of St. Just

*Visit mines near St.Micheals Mount, such as Pemberthy Croft, where pyromorphite and other minerals have been collected recently

*Visit one of the classic mines near St. Day, Wheal Gorland, which is famous for its copper arsenate minerals, such as olivenite

*For a change, we'll visit the scenic mines near Cligga Head where tin has been mined for over 200 years!

*We'll also visit St. Austell where the product mined is clay for the pottery industry. The clay is derived from weathered granite which has veins that produce minerals like turquoise, smoky quartz and feldspar pseudomorphs called "Pig's Eggs" by the locals

*Last, we'll look at a selection of slides showing minerals from all these localities...and many more

REVIEW and HIGHLIGHTS of DMS in 2008

January DMS mineral exhibit at the Danbury Public Library – year 3 of our educational exhibit.

January Annual Seminar - Dinner at Franco's – program - Fluorescent Minerals

February program - Connecticut pegmatites
DMS donated \$800 to CMMMS at CAMA for a black light lamp for the fluorescent mineral exhibit.

March program – Tuscon mineral show – DMS purchased digital projector for this and future programs.

April program - stone carving demonstration and hands-on carving opportunity.

May program – Annual Auction

June program – History and exhibit of beads

June Rock Swap at CMMMS at CAMA

June joint field trip with Mid-Hudson Min. Club

July-August - schools not available so no meetings

August – preshow set up meeting at Pat's house

September Annual Mineral Show

October program – summer show and tell

November program – Connecticut geology

December program - collecting herkimer diamonds
election of officers for 2009 – Thanks again to the following members who have given their time to help make this club a success for many years

President – unfilled

Vice President – Lizzie Troiano

Secretary – Jack Pawloski

Treasurer – Pat Hackett

ONGOING DMS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT – WE NEED A VOLUNTEER
MEETING SPACE – still looking for ideas to replace the school -

DMS LIBRARY – shall we expand it or forget it.

EXHIBITS – at the danbury library and other locations - different date - see Lizzie to volunteer

ANNUAL AUCTION IN MAY – member

donations needed

ROCK SWAP IN JUNE AT CAMA– See Jack Pawloski. to volunteer - or you can buy and sell-

ANNUAL SHOW IN SEPTEMBER – see Pat Hackett to volunteer.

LOCAL ROCK SHOWS

January 31st - 9:00am New Brunswick, NJ

Rutgers University Geology 41st Annual

Open House - Free - Four lectures - mineral sale!

Scott Hall, College Avenue

Visit the geology museum, or attend the mineral sale or go to one of the lectures:

Dinosaurs of Antarctica, Dr. William Hammer,

Department of Geology, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

Evolution and Geologic Time: The Unity of Life, Dr.

Marie-Pierre Aubry, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

Drilling in the Cretaceous/Paleocene Extinctions in New Jersey, Dr. Kenneth G. Miller and Dr. Richard K.

Olsson, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

February 21-22--Albany, NY: 16th Annual James

Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral, and Fossil

Show and Sale; New York State Academy of

Mineralogy, Capital District Mineral Club; 4th floor,

Museum at the Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave.

Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$6, includes New

York State Flower Show; more than 20 mineral and

fossil dealers, geological lectures, staff on hand

to identify minerals and fossils

March: 28-29: Holyoke, MA.

Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral

Club. Holiday Inn at Ingleside, Holyoke, MA.

October: 17 & 18:

37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

and 59th Annual EFMLS

Convention sponsored by the Bristol

Gem & Mineral Club. Beals

Community Center, Bristol, CT.

The 2009 dues are due

– see the back cover for the rates and send your renewal check to Pat Hackett, our Treasurer.

Stone soup—a recipe

By the reluctant rocker
aka Jo Ann Henning

It took me years to realize that every time our car leaves the yard with us in it for anywhere, it is always a rock trip-- no matter what my husband says otherwise. A “Let’s go into town for milk and cat food” is a thinly disguised excuse for a rock trip. His “You deserve a break from cooking. Let’s go out for a early dinner!” means a stop at a rock cut on the way to a restaurant. “We should go visit Mary and Joe!” actually means he’s heard they are tearing up their driveway and new rocks might be unearthed. Truth be told, I went through a period of being downright prickly about his duplicity. But I have matured and a children’s fable helped me to mellow.

Do you remember the old fable, Stone Soup?

Here’s a quick summary: In days of yore, a shabby, weary stranger arrives at an isolated country village and asks the townspeople for a handout of food. The townspeople bemoan their own poverty and deprivation and offer the traveler nothing. The traveler

magnanimously offers to make the poor townspeople a giant pot of soup with “nothing but this stone”. They gather around as a giant kettle of water is placed on the fire in the town square and the traveler ceremoniously puts in his stone. As the kettle slowly begins to heat, he muses aloud that Stone Soup is excellent with just the stone, but “a wee bit of onion” would make it better. A carrot would give it a touch of color. By the time he is done “thinking out loud” about ways to enhance his stone soup, the villagers have contributed carrots, onions, potatoes, beets, herbs, salt and pepper and



even meat. The stone soup turns out superb and a gala feast is had by all. The villagers are full and smiling and marveling at the miracle of the stone. And the traveler, nourished and content, tucks his stone in his knapsack and moves on to another day and another village down the road.

This story has a good lesson for all you other reluctant rockers out there—there is a way to cope with your own incurable, devoted rocker and his or her need to leave no stone unturned. Instead of getting grumpy, create stone soup. You, too, can gather carrots and potatoes and onions and enjoy a soup--an experience-- that will nourish just you.

Recently, we went on an declared rock trip to an area college mineral museum open house. In the past, this would turn into a few hours of discontent for me as I know my husband would linger over every specimen-- look at it from every angle, read every single label and file card; he

would talk endless “rock” to anyone that moved. He’d take dozens and dozens of carefully framed photographs, both for his own archives and for possible use in the club monthly bulletin. He would assure me we would spend only a “reasonable amount of time” there, but it would turn into many hours of his total rock absorption and my moping around and getting grouchy and uncomfortable. While I do actually really appreciate rocks, they simply do not sing to me the way they do to him. They are not my passion. I honestly don’t care about provenance-- where it came from, when it was collected, what it’s worth, how rare it might be. I make a speedy determination that it’s interesting or pretty, butt ugly or gross, odd or ordinary, rough or smooth. Then I get over it. My philosophy is, “It’s a just a rock. Look at it and move on. Let’s go eat!”

But since I have had my stone soup revelation (realizing that there is so much else to absorb at a rock museum, rock show, a construction site or rock cut than just rocks) I really enjoy these excursions! If I focus on making stone soup --finding things of particular interest to me at each and every one—I learn a lot, see a lot, and have a wonderful time.

So, I'm sharing my latest soup recipe which I call: Vassar College Stone Soup:

First: Travel with a unique, interesting rock! (In my case, my husband.)

Second: Carry bottled water with you to keep you hydrated.

Next, add carrots:

The staff and volunteers hosting the open house were warm, friendly, welcoming. They were very knowledgeable and professional about their displays and exhibits. But as a reluctant rocker, I was delighted that they realized that not all attendees are devout rockers. They also cheerfully and enthusiastically engaged in friendly conversations about things other than rocks and I availed myself of that gracious ability. While my husband had discussions about rocks, took photos, lingered over reading about each display, I wandered about and chatted about the weather, families, campus, the holidays, and a magnificent ancient tree out in front of the museum. Time passed quickly.

Add onions:

The new display case for fluorescent specimens in a windowless back room was crafted from an old side-board/bureau. Designed for display and for safety and protection from the UV rays, it was ingenious! The case full of glowing fluorescents was truly eye candy and I actually lingered there admiring each specimen for quite awhile. What made it even more special was learning through conversations with staff and volunteers that this fine display was, in part, made possible by an area rock club that contributed funds for the UV light required to fluoresce the minerals. Learning about the donation added yet another pleasing, very human dimension to the very successful total

project. First and foremost, congratulations to the museum staff for their very well done display. And further congratulations and thanks to the officers and members of the Hudson Valley Rock and Mineral Club for donating some of their club funds to the museum to help make the display possible.



It is a noteworthy and praiseworthy demonstration of their club's commitment to education and community.

Add potatoes:

The specimen display cabinets in the bright, sunny main room were just magnificent. Quite large and sturdy, made of glowing burnished wood and glass, they were themselves beauty to behold as finely crafted furniture. They would be interesting empty! High praise is due to the staff for acquiring them! Specimens and informative displays under glass had ample and flattering light and were at a comfortable height so that you could see every item on two levels without ending up with a lower backache after a few minutes stooped over to view or having to twist and turn to try to view each item. You also could see each specimen very clearly and closely without having to inhale old air or ancient dusts—a joy to those with allergies or just quirky respiratory systems. The cabinets did not detract or distract from the displays but showed them



THE MAIN EXHIBITION ROOM AT THE VASSAR COLLEGE MINERAL MUSEUM

off at their finest. I was very impressed. This museum is truly a little jewel of a place in so many ways and I would urge you to plan a trip there to enjoy all it's wonders!

Add meat:

Ahhh! The refreshments were superb--an eclectic selection of exquisitely made and utterly delicious bakery bon-bons--mini cannoli, éclairs, assorted cookies! Our hostesses and hosts at the museum had arranged a feast for the eyes and for the taste buds. They had taken the time to display and present them with style and simple elegance. The tables were decked for the holidays, with generous amounts of everything so you did not feel wracked with guilt if you tried two of anything. A tempting bowl of oranges contributed a lovely splash of bright color and a pleasing scent to the air—as well as providing a thoughtful offering for those who might not be able to have sweets. I availed myself of many of the treats! I savored the flavors and appreciated the kindness and thoughtfulness that the museum staff demonstrated in caring for their guests.

Add salt and pepper:

While we were there, there were two dogs in attendance. I'm a cat person, and have a very healthy reserve regarding all dogs. But these two were, without a doubt, two of the world's most perfect dogs. They were friendly, calm and at home. They did not leap up on visitors, didn't bark, whine or

growl or nip. They did not once indelicately sniff private body parts. They were bright eyed and shiny and padded about as if they owned the place. They lent a warmth and family feel to overall the experience. I enjoyed watching them, talking to them and scruffing them. They were such fun to watch as they gently and unobtrusively interacted with each new person that arrived, self-appointed ambassadors of good will!

Add: herbs and spices:

When I had finally reached my "this is quite enough of a rock museum" threshold, I went outside and sat on a sheltered bench with my hot herbal tea and a cannoli and watched the steady stream of students passing by the front of the museum on the intersecting campus pathways. I was treated to an outstanding fashion show of wearable, diverse, avant garde, totally stylin' clothes. It was a cold, windy, bleak day with a threatening grey granite sky. But no matter! Many of these young men and women wore no coats at all! Most wore scarves—big, long, bold and brightly colored. Oversized sweaters of every description were common. Boots of every imaginable style, shape and color were the other major fashion statement. While some were practical, sturdy hiking boots, most were beautifully crafted leather or suede upscale fashion statements that probably cost more than a monthly mortgage payment. I so enjoyed seeing the parade of styles—on young men and women alike! As I sat there in my "a raging blizzard is possible at



VASSAR'S MUSEUM HAS A FINE COLLECTION OF OLD TOOLS USED FOR MINERALOGICAL RESEARCH - SHOWN HERE ARE A BRASS BALANCE BEAM, MICROSCOPE AND GOINOMETER

any moment in December!” mentality, wearing a “full winter gear ensemble”, I knew I probably **looked** like a bag lady who wears every single thing she owns all at the same time. But as I sat there, I **felt** like a very rich socialite watching models on the runway at the annual New York City fashion show. It was an absolutely wonderful, completely unexpected pleasure! And my husband had yet another uninterrupted half hour or so to enjoy the museum displays and he could look forward to joining back up with a smiling, contented wife with her own tales to tell.

So, the moral of my story is this: If life continually hands you rocks, make stone soup! A good life is the sum of many, many diverse ingredients and of little attitude adjustments along the way! Seek to enjoy all your rock trips, everyday! And bon appetite!

Happy holidays to you and yours, and a happy, healthy new year!

If there is any interest, the club can try to set up a field trip to visit this museum again this year. There was very short notice the first time it was offered. It would be a short trip to nearby Poughkeepsie NY. Contact Hank or any club officer if interested.

Are you getting the Danburite via email?

We will add you and your friends to our email list to receive the Danburite as a PDF file with color photos. Just send your email address to the editor and be sure to keep him informed of any changes. You don't have to be a member to get the e-mail version of the Danburite.

IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST from the members DMS will provide an exhibit later this year at the Danbury Public Library. It would be nice to have other participants in this endeavor. New helpers would add a different point of view and different specimens and different focus. You don't have to worry about filling the case, we will likely have enough minerals to do that much. Think “out of the box” and how you might inspire just one curious person with an idea presented in an interesting way. Kids exhibits would be super too. Maybe there was something in the show you can put in the library too. The first purpose and goal of the DMS is “To promote general interest in mineralogy” and one very effective way to do this is to set up mineral and fossil themed exhibits that can be offered to many libraries (and other educational groups) in the area. If you have any ideas contact Hank Henning or Lizzie.

FROM THE EFMLS NEWSLETTER JAN. 2009

Newsletter Depository

by Mary Bateman, President

As stated in the EFMLS November News, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were forced to go to a new insurance carrier. As a condition of keeping our old rate, Burlington Insurance Company has stated that there must be a signed contract for covered activities. This would

include meeting and show facilities where the club pays a fee for the use of such facilities.

While no written contract is needed for field trips, there is a verbal contract between the clubs and the quarry, mine, etc. where the club activity is to take place. In order to guarantee, for insurance purposes, that all activities that might be covered by insurance are legitimate club activities, they must be described in your club newsletter. We know that there are times when a field trip or club activity will come up at the last minute and you won't have time to get the details into your newsletter and information is spread by word of mouth or e-mail. To cover times when this happens, you need to either include information about the trip in the minutes of your meeting the following month and print them in your newsletter or have an article about the trip printed in the newsletter. To be available in any disputes, the EFMLS Board voted that club newsletters should be sent electronically to a central depository beginning with your January 2009 issue. For those editors who do not have access to e-mail or who do not use a computer to do their newsletter, we ask that they contact someone in their club to e-mail the newsletter to the depository (they may have to scan it if the newsletter is not produced on a computer). Once in the electronic depository, the newsletters will be kept in case they are needed as proof of an activity occurring. Your newsletter should be sent to

<EFMLSnewsletters@gmail.com>.

If you have any questions regarding the reason for a depository or filing your newsletter with the depository, please feel free to contact either Carolyn Weinberger <cscrystals2@verizon.net> or Mary Bateman <mbateman1@verizon.net>.

Preferred formats for sending your document are either "pdf", "Word" (doc suffix) or "postscript". Please note that the Newsletter Depository should not be confused with your sending in entries for the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee contest.

The entries for the BEAC contest are completely separate and should be sent via hard copy to Natalie Darling as per the rules found on the EFMLS website. See the article elsewhere on this page for more information about the contest and deadline.

Also note that you should continue to send (e-mail preferred to save you money) your newsletter to me as president, Carolyn Weinberger as Editor and to

the AFMS President Joy Bourne (president@amfed.org), so that each of us can get to know your club, your members and your concerns a bit better. Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you each month.

Safety First – and Last

by Jim Doran, Safety Chair

Consequences

A theme in one of my previous safety articles was that sometimes things are not so obvious when it involves safety. It's the little things which are not obvious that might hurt you. Not wearing safety glasses while next to someone who's cracking rocks is one example.

Knowing to follow obvious safety procedures such as: Wearing a hard hat, safety glasses and steel-toed boots, when in a quarry or a similar location, may seem easy to most, but what are the consequences of failing to do so? The obvious consequences might be that you might get hit from some rocks falling from above you. You might get an eye injury from flying rock shards, or you may hurt your foot from a rock falling on it. What may be a "not so obvious" consequence of failing to practice safety procedures? Increased insurance premiums or cancellation of the liability policy itself!

I know for a fact (from my own club experience as past field trip director), that there have been several field trips where if my club could not prove that we carried a valid liability insurance policy (which was furnished through the Eastern Federation), that the quarry or land owner would not have allowed any collecting on their property! So, you see that besides having the obvious required safety gear, that your club's liability insurance policy is just as important. That is why when clubs have field trips, that everyone who attends MUST follow all applicable safety procedures, have the required safety gear, and practice safe collecting at all times. No one wants to get injured, or worse, on a trip.

We should all be aware, even if it's something that is not obvious, that when we practice safe collecting, and follow safe procedures whenever there is an official club function, (lapidary classes, field trips, shows, etc.), that we are also ensuring that the club's insurance policy is not in jeopardy. I want everyone to think about this: "What if my club had no insurance policy?" "What if a claim was filed because of negligence, or carelessness?" Consequences. Not so obvious, are they?

Be safe, ALL of the time!

The Danbury Mineralogical Society Inc. is a non profit corporation and is affiliated with:

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Soc. and The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Meetings are held at 8:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month from October to June in the Mill Ridge Primary OR Middle School, at High Ridge Road off Mill Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut. Visitors and guests are welcome at all meetings. The January meeting is usually a dinner seminar. There are no meetings in July. August is preparation time for the annual mineral and jewelry show in September. Junior Club members meet at 7:00 pm before the regular meeting. Our last dues increase was in 2002 to cover the increasing cost of the bulletin and liability and accident insurance to cover the members on field trips and other club activities. The current membership dues are \$12.50 per adult individual / \$17.50 per family (including children under 18) \$ 7.50 for students and senior citizens. Only dues paying members are covered by our liability and accident insurance and receive the print version of the *Danburite*.

The particular objectives for which this Society is formed are:

- To promote general interest in mineralogy
- To study rocks, minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts through lectures and discussion groups and field trips.
- To encourage the search for minerals indigenous to our areas
- **To keep an accurate and permanent record of all mineral localities visited by this society and to make such records available to all members.**

The Danburite is published monthly except July and August by the Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc. The Danburite may be quoted and unless otherwise noted all material may be reprinted provided credit is given to the author and the Danburite.

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ANNUAL SEMINAR
INFORMATION

INSURANCE NEWS

