

The Danburite

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

MARCH 2009

VOLUME 59

NUMBER 3

PAGE 1

NEXT REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 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/>



PRESIDENT	OPEN
VICE PRESIDENT	Lizzie Triano, 98 Cross Road, Holmes, NY 12531 (845) 878-7635
SECRETARY	Jack Pawloski, Squash Hollow Road, New Milford CT 06776 (860) 354-0296
TREASURER	Pat Hackett 1 Lakeview Road, New Milford, CT 06776 (860) 355-9799
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Hank & Meryl Silverstein, 129 Dannel Dr., Stamford CT 06905 (203) 588-0026 John Schroder, 5 Gillotti Road, New Fairfield CT 06812 (203) 746-2216 Rick Sinclair, 275 South Kent Road, South Kent CT 06785 (860) 927-4454
WEBMASTER	Pat Hackett e-mail prhackett@charter.net
Bulletin Editor	Hank Henning e-mail hank@bestweb.net

March Program

will be a presentation by Jack Pawloski

This is how Jack describes it

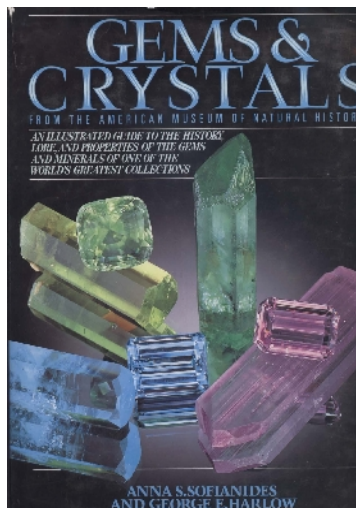
THE TUCSON EXPERIENCE 2009

Another true story of the wacky adventures of Jack Pawloski's recent trip will be told at the March 5th meeting of the Danbury Mineral Society. This illustrated presentation will cover many of the hundreds of dealer's booths that line the street and fill tents and hotels to the brim.

See how wheeling and dealing can save the collector mucho \$\$\$ and fill your collection with great specimens at the same time. Some of Jack's favorite secret techniques will be revealed.

The program will end with a presentation of slides taken of the exhibits of the main show- the famous Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, the theme of which was Mineral oddities.

Jack will also bring specimens from his gift shop purchases to sell at the meeting. Club members get a discount.



A DMS library book that will be available for members to borrow at the meeting

Notes on the February 5 2009 DMS meeting

Minutes were not taken at the Feb. meeting. Secretary Pawloski was at the mineral extravaganza in Tucson AZ

Approximately 10 members attended the Feb. meeting. After we arrived at the school we found the meeting location was shifted to a classroom in the far wing of the Intermediate School. This happened because a School activity was rescheduled to our

meeting time and location because of a weather issue the week before. Meryl Silverstein was posted at the door to redirect arriving DMS members till well after 8:00pm. We hope no one came after that and missed the meeting. If this did happen to anyone please let us know and we'll adjust our procedure. There was a short informal business meeting. We discussed the possibility of the DMS

acquiring the additional equipment to extend the function of our digital projector.

Hank Silverstein asked how we could afford additional equipment and Pat Hackett responded with a quick review of the DMS finances, indicating that the club does have money to purchase additional equipment. For the program we viewed several DVD's that Bob Burke borrowed from the EFMLS lending library. Pat Hackett set up the equipment and we saw two short but interesting programs. Pat also loaned the DMS the use of his own personal portable computer and sound system to make it all work.

There was some discussion as to whether it would be better to have the DMS acquire a DVD player or a laptop type computer to feed the DVD signal to the digital projector. If you have any thoughts on the subject, we would be happy to get your input; especially if you have equipment to donate.

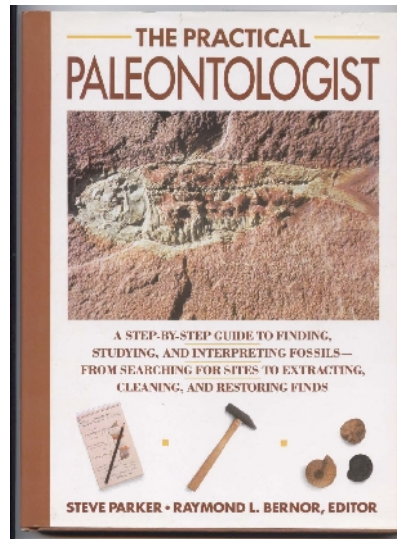
Meryl Silverstein asked if there would be a business meeting to discuss the ongoing club business such as the need for a President, field trips, the annual show, officers nominating committee for 2010, committee activities, etc. It was observed that the DMS hasn't had a BOD meeting for quite some time and such meetings are essential to the club business being attended to. The regular monthly meeting doesn't provide sufficient time for discussion of the issues that ought to be dealt with in committee. and brought to the general meeting in a concise report with proposals for the club to vote on as and if needed.

Hank Henning said he will manage the DMS Library for a while. He will have a selection of books available at the meeting for borrowing.

Pat Hackett put a list of the 29 DMS Library book on the website in '05. This is still the current list. There have been no additions to the Library since that date. Members are invited to suggest books and videos that would be of interest to the DMS members.

Members may also donate books magazines and other literature to the Library. In the past this was a major source of the current books in the library.

Most of the books in the library are intended for a general audience with a interest in mineral and fossil collecting. They are full of great photographs and articles that will help you discover and enjoy



Another DMS library Book available for members at the March meeting

the different aspects of this hobby. There are a few books that are more technical in nature. Browsing thru these books might get you interested in getting a little deeper into the technical aspects of mineralogy like crystallography or mineral classifications or mineral photography.

The DMS Committees and activities need your support to be successful

In addition to the elected offices for 2009 the following committees were staffed as follows

Field trips – open
 Exhibits – Lizzie Triano
 Annual Show – Pat Hackett
 Annual Seminar – Bob Burke
 Library – Hank Henning
 Refreshments – Bob Burke
 Programs – Lizzie Triano
 By Laws – open
 Equipment – Pat Hackett
 Membership – open
 Auctioneer – Jack Pawloski
 Danburite – Hank Henning

ONGOING DMS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT – WE NEED A VOLUNTEER

MEETING SPACE – still looking for ideas to replace the school – we never actually got to bring the possibility of meeting at the Danbury RR Museum to a vote.... any interest ?

DMS LIBRARY – shall we expand it or forget it ?

EXHIBITS – For our annual Show in September and at the Danbury Public Library and other

locations throughout the year - see Lizzie to volunteer

ANNUAL AUCTION IN MAY – member donations of minerals, books, tools, fossils are 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.

FIELD TRIPS – Does anyone want field trips ?

LOCAL ROCK SHOWS

March 7 – 8 Meriden CT

The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central CT presents **Jewelry Gem & Mineral Show & Sale** Sat. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. - Sun. 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. Maloney High School, Gravel St. Meriden CT. www.lmscc.org

March 7 & 8 New York City

New York Mineral Society
New York City - Holiday Inn, 440 W 57 St.

March: 28-29: Holyoke, MA.

Western Massachusetts Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Holiday Inn at Ingleside, Holyoke, MA.

April 25 and 26, Franklin NJ

SPRING SHOW WEEKEND

37th Annual N.J.E.S.A. Gem & Mineral Show held in conjunction with the

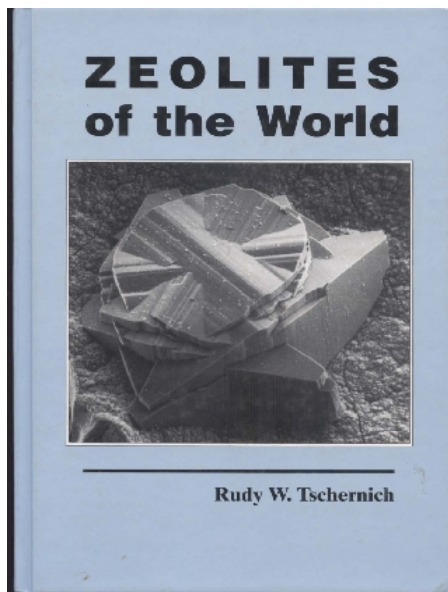
14th Annual F.O.M.S. Spring Swap-and-Sell.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Earth Science Association, The Sterling Hill Mining Museum, and the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society
Franklin Middle School, Washington St., Franklin, NJ.

<http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com/activities.htm>

June 13 – a Saturday – from 9am to 4 pm outdoor swap at the CT Mining and Mineral Museum at the Connecticut Antique Machinery Assoc. in Kent CT

Jack says if things work out there will also be a DMS picnic. Such picnic was very successful last year, thanks to Pat Hackett et al.



This is also a DMS library book. You can borrow it at the March meeting

June 27 – 28

**Gilsum NH
Rock Swap & Mineral Show!
The 45th Annual Show RAIN OR SHINE!**

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday/
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Location: Gilsum Elementary School and Community Center, 640 Route 10 in Gilsum (just 10 minutes from Keene).

<http://gilsum.org/rockswap.aspx>

October: 17 & 18:

37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 59th Annual EFMLS

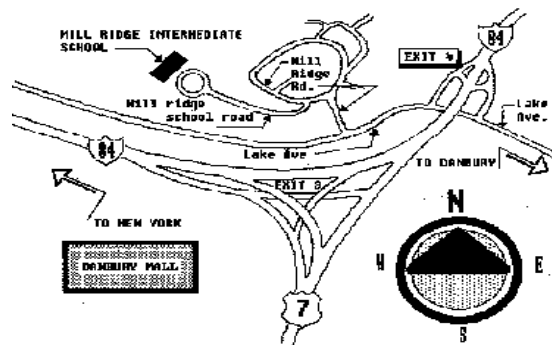
Convention sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT.

The 2009 dues are due

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

– Are you getting the Danburite via email?

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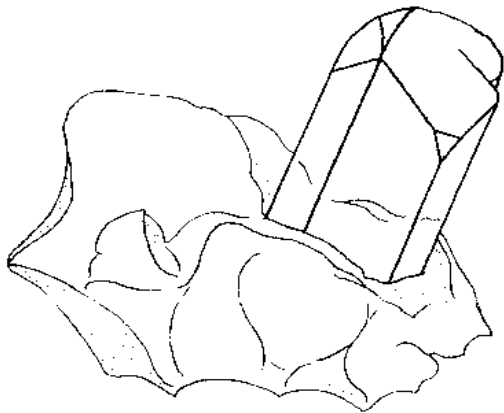
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CAN LIGHT DAMAGE MY MINERAL COLLECTION?

by Darryl Powell

There are some minerals that can be harmed by sunlight. If you leave them on a desk or shelf and sunlight shines on them every day, they will change. But the change will be very little each day. After many months or years, you may notice that some specimens are different. Some will lose their color. Some will get darker. Others will fall apart. When you know more about light and minerals, you will be able to take better care of your specimens and they will last for a very long time.

Minerals which are affected by light are called *photosensitive*. The problems that light causes include bleaching, color changes, and decomposition. Let's look at these one at a time.

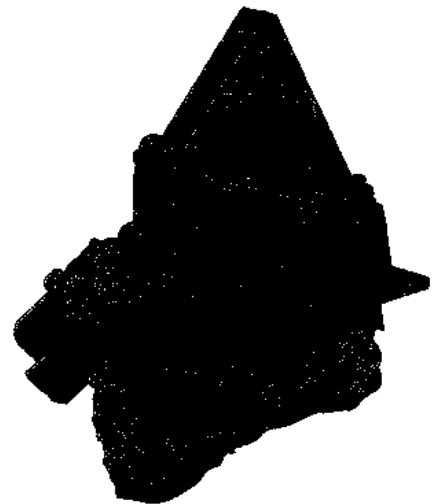


Bleaching. *Bleaching* means that color is taken out of something. When sunlight shines on some minerals, the color gets lighter and lighter until the mineral is white. The minerals that can be bleached by the sun are celestite, topaz, and anhydrite. Once the color is lost in these specimens it will not return. If you have these minerals, do not display them near a window which allows strong, direct sunlight to fall on the specimens. Keep these specimens in a shadowed corner of a room or cabinet and only put light on them when you want to show them off for a short time.

Here's a bleaching experiment for you: Take a colorful advertising page from the newspaper and put it on a table where sunlight will shine on the page. Let it sit in the direct sunlight for many days. Each day look at the paper. What do you see? In time, you will see that the colors are changing. Some colors will actually disappear!

Color Changes. Another problem caused by light is that it can cause some minerals to *change* color over time. Some minerals that can change color when exposed to sunlight include calcite, rose quartz (which fades), topaz, fluorite, barite and vanadinite.

If you ever wonder if light will harm a particular mineral specimen, place a less valuable piece from the same locality in light and observe it for a number of days and weeks.



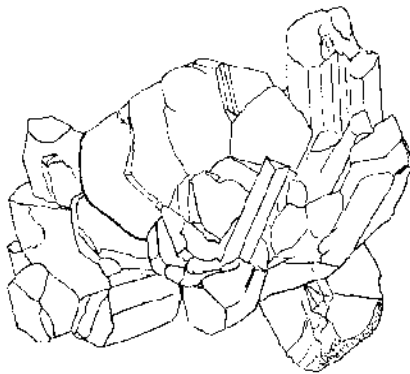
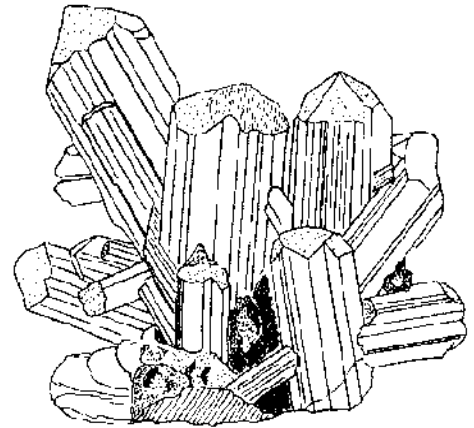
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CAN LIGHT DAMAGE MY MINERAL COLLECTION? CONTINUED

Only after doing this experiment should a collector take the chance of displaying better specimens in direct light. Some green fluorites, for example, are known to change to purple. This is true of the specimens from Weardale, Durham County, England. If you want to be *very* careful, put specimens that you know will fade or change color in drawers where they will be in the dark most of the time.

Decomposition. There are some mineral species that actually decompose (that is, break down) in the presence of light. The light helps create a chemical situation where certain elements in the minerals combine with oxygen in the air (a process called *oxidation*). This oxidation can destroy the color and the luster of the minerals. These minerals are said to be *photosensitive*.

The minerals that contain silver, like *proustite* and *pyrargyrite* are photosensitive. They will change from striking red to dull black as the oxidation takes place. As long as they are kept in complete darkness and looked at only once in a while, and then for a very short time, they will be red. But every time light hits them, oxidation is happening and they are, a little at a time, getting darker and dull!



The mineral *realgar* is famous for its bright red crystals. However, over time, it changes into the golden-yellow, powdery mineral called *orpiment*. This change happens faster when a realgar specimen is exposed to light. So, if you ever have a decent realgar crystal, keep it in the dark or, someday, you will notice that it is powdery, yellow and now should be called *orpiment*!

The mineral *vivianite*, like proustite and pyrargyrite, oxidizes in the presence of light. As it oxidizes its color changes from almost colorless when pure to greenish blue and then to blue and then dark purple (which looks almost black) when the process is done. The specimen will also begin to fall apart.

If you have any of these specimens, be careful to keep them out of direct light. Keep them safe in boxes or cabinet drawers and show them off or look at them once in a while. If you do, you will be able to enjoy these specimens - in their original conditions - for many years.

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.**

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The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc. March 2009

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DMS
LIBRARY
BOOKS
WILL BE AT
MEETINGS