

The Danburite

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

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NEXT REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY MAY 6, 2010
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM - MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE **BROADVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

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



Another Quartz Cluster – There are a thousand ways to light it up for a photo.

**The May Meeting will be the first
Thursday of the month, May 6th** at the
Broadview Middle School
The program is the

annual auction

[Auction forms were emailed out separately last week if you didn't get your cop please notify Hank Henning at hank@bestweb.net]

**The June Meeting will be the first
Thursday of the month, June 3rd**
at the Broadview Middle School
Tentative program is a talk by John Sanfaçon.

On the topic of
"Jasper, Flint and Chert."

President's Message by Jack Pawloski

Going once! Going Twice! Going. . . Well, it is auction time again. I hope that you have dug deeply into your muck pile at home and are going to bring in some great treasures for the annual club auction. Remember this is a great chance to get rid of all your **GOOD** leaverites and help the club boost its treasury as well as bring home some cash for you. Minerals, fossils, jewelry, books, tools, and even your new Audi are fair game for Hustling Jack the auctioneer.

If you do not have any leftovers for the auction then get into the quarry pit and bring home some for next years auction. Liz Triano is setting up field trips, and would like input from you for places you would like to collect at. Hmm, Brazil is nice this time of year and it has fantastic minerals as well. Anyway, Liz could use your help.

It is not too late to mark your calendar for the club's picnic at the mineral show/swap at the mining museum. I think you will enjoy the new exhibits we installed this year. Going, going, gone!

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LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 6 - DMS Regular Meeting

June 3 – DMS Regular Meeting

June 5: Spring Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park Building, Macungie, PA.

June 5 & 6: Monroe, NY; Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M; Adults \$5.00, Seniors & Kids \$3.00; 10-4 both days

June 12 - ROCK SWAP AND SALE AT CAMA

June 15: Annual Symposium sponsored by the Micromounters of New England. Chester Tuttle Lodge, Auburn, MA.

June 15-16: 37th Annual 2010 For Minerals, Gems, Jewelry & Fossils sponsored by the New Haven Mineral Club. Amity Regional Middle School, Orange, CT.

June 15-16: 41st Annual World of Gems & Minerals sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market, Rt 61; Leesport, PA.

June 26 & 27: Gilsum, NH; Gilsum Elementary School Field Rt. 10 North from Keene, NH; 8-6 Sat., 8-4 Sun.; Contact info: www.gilsum.org e-mail: gilsumrocks@gmail.com

June 26-27: Nittany Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Nittany Mineralogical Society. Mt. Nittany Middle School, State College, PA.

July 10-11: 49th Annual Western Maine Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Oxford Co. Mineral & Gem Association. Telstar Regional High School, Bethel, ME. Contact Hugh Chapman 207-836-2987.

July 10-11: 44th Annual GemWorld Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. NY State Fairgrounds, I-690, Exit 7; Syracuse, NY

July 17-18: 41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem City Rock Club. JMC Ice Arena, Erie, PA.

July 24-25: 31st Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Tuttle Middle School; So. Burlington, VT

August 13-15--WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS. "East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Dr.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, ages 12 and under free with adult; more than 200 dealers from the U.S. and abroad, door prizes, guest speakers, museum-quality exhibits, gem panning, large wholesale section, collection of Bill Larson, Pala Int'l; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

August 21 & 22: Madrid, NY (just north of Canton, NY); St. Lawrence County Annual Rock Mineral Fossil Show and Sale. Again, more info. to follow.

Sept. 18-19: Rhinebeck, NY; Dutchess Co. Fairgrounds, Route 9; 10-5 Sat. 10-4 Sun.; Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$4.00, Students \$2.00; kids under 12 free with adult; Scouts in uniform free with adult.

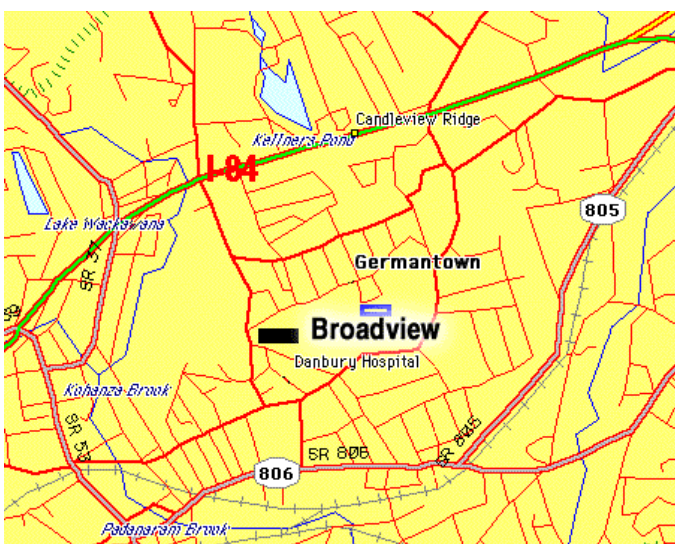
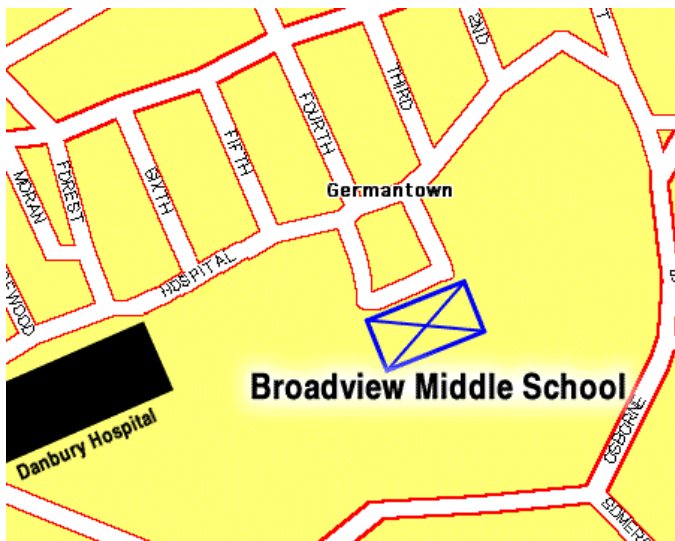
Directions to Broadview Middle School 72 Hospital Avenue Danbury, CT 06810

From the West:

- I-84 East to Exit 5
- Straight ahead through 4 lights.
- Turn right at 5th light (entrance to North Street Shopping Center) onto Hayestown Ave.
- Turn right at next light onto Tamarack Ave.
- Turn left at next light onto Hospital Ave.
- Broadview will be on your right.

From the East:

- I-84 East to Exit 6
- Turn right at exit.
- Turn right at next light (entrance to North Street Shopping Center) onto Hayestown Ave.
- Turn right at next light onto Tamarack Ave.
- Turn left at next light onto Hospital Ave.
- Broadview will be on your right.



NEW DINNER LOCATION

3 Brothers Diner

242 White Street, Danbury between Locust Ave and Meadow Street. it is about 1/2 mile East of Wesconn and is about a mile from Broadview School.

All members are invited to join in and get a little more time to get acquainted with the other Club members. Often the guest speaker will also show up. The meeting time at the diner is 6:00 pm.

From the EFMLS newsletter

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the 2010 EFMLS annual meeting last March.

• **Katie Collins, Region I Vice President, reported visiting and corresponding with many of her clubs and reading their bulletins. She reported that 5 Connecticut clubs met to discuss common problems and figure out ways they can work together to improve operations in their clubs. Suggestions they came up with were; sharing field trips, swapping bulletins, having Presidents meet regularly to fine tune the process, to expand the Connecticut combined picnic to a more central location, and to invite neighboring states to join in field trips. This is a wonderful experiment in cooperation!**

Ed. note

After making a few inquiries it seems that the DMS had no representative at this meeting. Hopefully we can learn what we missed and catchup with the program. We could certainly benefit from the field trip experience of some of the other CT clubs. One of the other things DMSers were hoping to suggest was to set up a sort of speakers bureau. To share a database of folks in the different areas who might be able to offer programs to the other clubs. We have already seen the benefits of having members of other Mineral Clubs come and speak to us.

In the real world, we find that getting folks to come to meetings is not as easy as one might hope. Just getting the DMS officers to have regular board of directors meetings has been very difficult over the years. So the long term success of this endeavor will depend on the willingness of someone from each club to put in the time. Any DMS volunteers?

From the Top!

by Loren Patterson, EFMLS President

We had a great time at the recent EFMLS Convention in Delaware on March 5-7, 2010. The quantity and quality at the mineral and fossil seller's tables was above average. I splurged on several specimens that I hadn't planned on simply because the value and quality exceeded anything I had seen all winter. The Delaware Club's youth area was innovative in that they had selfcollected minerals and fossils for sale and youth doing capping demonstrations along side the adult demonstrators.



Our Cracker Barrel meeting on Friday was well attended and discussions were in depth. Few seats were empty and hands were raised to speak almost continuously. One issue that caught my attention involved providing minerals and fossils to Earth Science teachers and grade school teachers as well. In my own experience, Cathy and I did a fossil and mineral program for grade school teachers in Upstate New York. The teachers attending were amazed at the amount of material we brought with us. We left many of our excess fossil specimens with them and made them very happy. This is an area where you could really make a difference by providing some excess specimens to your local schools. Many teachers don't have access to the variety of material that we possess in our individual collections.

The EFMLS business meeting Friday evening went smoothly and was close to being one of the shortest. Our 2010 Scholarship Nominee, Associate Professor Linda C. Ivany attended the Awards Banquet on Saturday night and provided a power point program showing highlights of her research with fossil shells in Antarctica and Australia. Most everyone appeared to enjoy the program. Instead of going home after the convention, we headed south to take some time out to sightsee and enjoy some warmer weather. Now that we are back in NY, it looks like warmer weather is coming here sooner than we expected, I'll bet there will be some field trips happening real soon for you too. Get out there and enjoy this great hobby. Loren "Williams" Patterson

Junior Activities

by Roberta Goldsmith, Jr. Activities EFMLS

Does your club have junior members coming to your club meetings? Are they interested in what is happening, or do they sit there bored? Do you have separate meeting just for them?

My mineral club – Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society – has always had a club for our kids. But, meetings were sporadic, with changing leaders, and the leaders were always hunting for things to do and teach at the meetings. Worse, the meetings used to be held at the same time as the adult meetings; which meant that the people involved had to miss our meetings/ programs.

The juniors should have a club designed just for them. One which covers all areas of geology, mineralogy and the related lapidary and crafts. It should introduce them to our hobby and then proceed onward. Well, there is such a club. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) has the Future Rockhounds of America program.

There is no cost involved for the kids to participate. Each kid gets a membership patch. Then, he/she can work at club meetings or home self study towards earning 15 free activity badges that span the full range of our hobby, as well as a "Rockhound" badge for kids earning 6 or more activity badges. All this is funded by the AFMS. MMGS is now part of this program, and the kids love it. Need info on this amazing program? Get it at <www.amfed.org/kids.htm>

AMERICAN FEDERATION NEWS AND ARTICLES from the May bulletin

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

Attracting Kids to Your Society

In March, I was invited by the Mother Lode Mineral Society to moderate a Juniors Activities Roundtable at their annual club show in



Turlock, California. We had such a great time exchanging ideas with juniors leaders from several clubs in northern California that I'm hoping we might hold a similar roundtable at the upcoming AFMS/ CFMS Show & Convention in June. In the meantime, over the course of the next three months, I'll share some key components of that roundtable discussion. Those three key components revolved around the following topics: How do we attract kids to our clubs? How do we then form and implement a juniors' program? And finally, where can we turn for ready-made sources of kids' activities?

I'll start this month with how to attract kids to your society. Growing a youth program presupposes one very big thing, namely, that you already have a roomful of kids in your club. Many clubs tell me this is not the case. Some may have one or two junior members or none at all. How do you reverse that? Here are a few suggestions.

Start locally. If you have a single child, you have a start! Encourage that child's parents to network with friends who have kids and bring their friends along to the next meeting. Just make sure you have something exciting for the kids at that meeting, along with rock, mineral, or fossil prizes, posters, or activity sheets for them to walk home with.

Make your show fun for kids—and follow up! If your club has committed to a kids program, demonstrate that commitment at your very next show by making kids the show theme and centerpiece.

Have a large Kids Booth or Activity Area and heavily promote a theme of kids' activities in all your show publicity. (You're also more likely to pique the attention of the local newspaper and get a nice pre-show write-up if you focus on how your show is family-oriented.) Build in touch-stones, interactive displays, and activities, and involve kids in other ways (helping to run the kids booth, competing for ribbons or other prizes with displays, etc.). Finally, in the kids area, have informational handouts about your club and its kids activities readily available, along with sign-up sheets for parents interested in more info—and have a club member follow up immediately after the show to invite them to your very next meeting, workshop, or other event.

Maintain a focus on kids. Most newspapers publish (either in print or on their web site) a Having Fun: Junior Activities by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair listing of club news and forthcoming events, and many clubs will put in an announcement listing when and where the next meeting is and the guest speaker for the night. Take this a step further by including a line on a highlighted kids' activity for the night. At every club meeting and at every club event (club show, picnic, holiday dinner), make sure time is devoted to kids, with an activity, a rock give-away, a show-and-tell, or anything else that tells them they, too, have a place in your club. And have a tab in your club web site devoted to highlighting youth activities in your club—and perhaps providing a profile of your “Junior Member of the Month” or “Junior of the Year.”

Create and circulate a Kids Club flyer. The “Coquina Kids” of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida have created a wonderfully colorful, picture- and photo-filled three-fold flyer highlighting their kids activities, with a membership application form on the back fold. Create one for your club and then have a supply at your Welcome table and Kids Booth at your show, at club meetings, and spread around the community—at the library, in schools, at Boys and Girls Clubs, at the YMCA, and elsewhere.

Go to where the kids are. With your Kids Club flyer in hand, take a supply and reach out to Boy and Girl Scout troops, Big Brother/Big Sister programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA facilities, etc. Reach out to schools and forge connections with area science teachers. Build a following and a community among teachers by maintaining an e-mail directory, giving teachers free rock samples and posters, offering to give classroom talks, etc. And don't forget your local library. Forge ties with the librarians by donating books (library budgets are being cut to the bone in today's economy), by putting a club display in the lobby, or by offering to help with a summer reading program with books like *Julie the Rockhound*.

Key to attracting kids to your club or society?

Make it fun!

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. The Editor, the officers of the Danbury Mineralogical Society and The Danbury Mineralogical Society Inc. are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of information in articles accepted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the editor and the officers and other members of the Danbury Mineralogical Society Inc.

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The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc. May 2010

Henry Henning, Ed. 1234 Peekskill Hollow Road, Carmel NY

ANNUAL
AUCTION
THIS MONTH
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THE OLDE
GIVE AND TAKE