

The Danburite

The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 2642, Danbury, Connecticut 06810-2642

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PAGE 1

NEXT REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM - MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 PM
THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE **BROADVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**
72 Hospital Avenue, Danbury CT 06810

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

Geography Awareness Week November 14 - 20, 2010

<http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/gaw.html>

**The November meeting will be the first
Thursday of the month, November 4, 2010
at the Broadview Middle School**

Election of Officers &
Reflections on the Arkansas Trip
Jack Pawloski

**The December meeting will be the first
Thursday of the month, December 2, 2010
at the Broadview Middle School**

DIY Crafting Party !

Wire wrapping and what-have-you!

*Bring stones to wrap, tools if you have, a favorite project,
and maybe some food!*

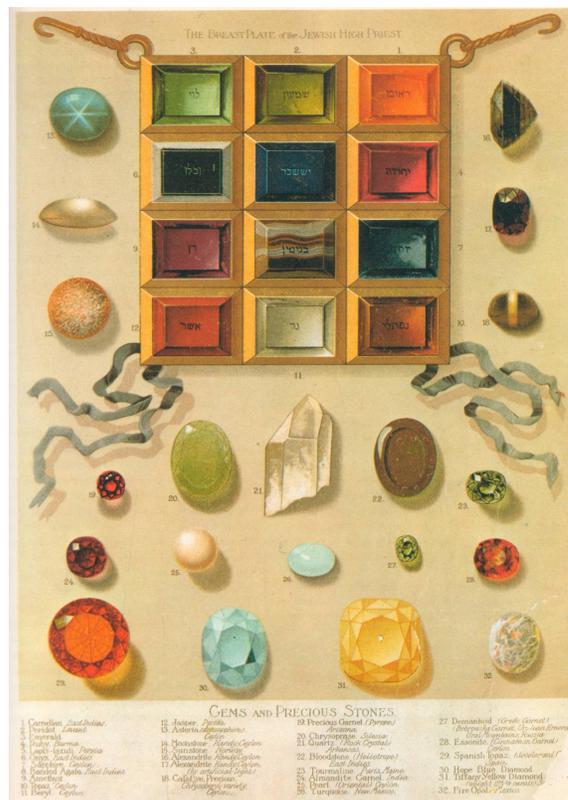
Pre-Meeting Dinner will be at

~ Elmer's Diner ~

22 Padanaram Road, Danbury (203) 731-2559. It is just downhill from the former Ernie's Roadhouse, and not far 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.

Thanks to Hank Silverstein for last month's educational and exotic presentation about the Breastplate of Aaron !



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=> Repeat: Swanson Quarry CLOSED <=

Opinion: Mineral Recession Continues – Shows Cancelled – New Faces Needed

by Tony Nikischer
Excalibur Mineral Corp.

Reprinted with permission from Mineral News, Vol. 26 No. 10, October 2010

It will probably come as no surprise to many, but the economic crash and recession of 2008 continue to erode “disposable dollars” directed toward the mineral trade. Anecdotal evidence suggests that mineral specimen purchases at many levels have declined significantly, and several major shows have netted poor results for many dealers. The new Cartersville, Georgia, show, initiated by the well-regarded Martin Zinn Expos just a few short years ago, has announced that the 2011 event has been cancelled. Similarly, well-known shows in California and elsewhere have ceased to exist. With few exceptions, many shows are seeing fewer attendees and major shifts in buying patterns. What is the prognosis for the hobby?

I used to joke that unless Wal-Mart got into the rare species business, I would always be able to survive in my niche because of its small size and lack of attractive revenues for big time players. Further, the specialized knowledge, the need for one-on-one contact with both suppliers and customers alike, costly analytical requirements and the lack of “glitz” would keep the market narrow and protected from outside competitive forces. The greatest long-term danger has always been the dumbing-down of science education¹, the loss of geology as a respected science, and the effect of these changes on sustaining the rather esoteric pursuit of “species collecting.” Where it was once possible to rely on apparently better-educated foreign clients (and a weak U.S. dollar) to support the rare mineral niche, the worldwide economic slow-down has crimped these markets as well. Alas, bad news not only travels fast, but it also travels widely and deeply into the pockets of mineral collectors and dealers alike.

Like other hobbies, the need to bring in new collectors at all levels has never been greater. The same complaints heard among mineral clubs and dealers have been echoing in stamp collecting, model railroading, and just about every other hobby pursuit for years. And yet, they

survive despite the peaks and valleys in club membership, show attendance and other key indicators of how they have defined “health” in their hobbies. The sky is not falling, however, it is just changing its hue.

Some may argue that the Internet has, indeed, widened the field of potential mineral enthusiasts. Mineral shows, like paper publications, may become an anachronism to this electronic generation, and collecting will prosper once again, but in a new form. While I believe there is significant growth potential in this market segment, it does not address the long-term fear that a few very wealthy collectors will support a few very high-end dealers, and the rest of the collecting world is due for a major shakeout and subsequent decline. In this fast-paced environment, the very nimble, and those who are well-capitalized with great depth in their inventories, will survive. The peripheral dealer population and some local clubs may not.

Youth programs like those of the American Philatelic Society, as well as the mineral giving and lecture programs of the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, are a few of the bright spots in the effort to raise well-informed, enthusiastic collectors of tomorrow. Local clubs that offer entertaining, educational programs for new members, be they kids or adults, will survive as well. Appreciation of the nuances in collecting, like the historical [significance] of certain specimens or their long-dead localities, are only achieved over time, however. Holding interest over the long term will be the greatest challenge to cultivating tomorrow's life-long collector.

We at *Mineral News* invite those successful clubs to tell us what is working on sustaining the health of their organizations. Perhaps we can help spread the word and keep our hobby active, entertaining, educational and enjoyable for those fresh, new faces so desperately needed.

¹See “Cranky Rockhounds of All Sorts” for more effects of the dumbing down of science ed. -Ed.

Mineral News, P.O. Box 2088, Peekskill NY 10566- 2088 (\$29 a year for 12 issues)

**Still needed: Field Trip Coordinators!!
Hospitality Person!! Webmaster !! Please !!**

Write for Us, or for..... Send material to lizzie@lizziewriter.com. Write for Mineral News! Go to their website at www.mineralnews.com or email Editor Mitch Portnoy (mitchpnyc@aol.com) or Publisher Tony Nikischer (tony@mineralnews.com). Kids can write or draw pictures for publication in Mini Miners Monthly. Contact Diamond Dan at diamonddan@rochester.rr.com or visit the family of DD websites at www.diamonddanpublications.net (best viewed in IE or Chrome, or at any rate not Firefox-friendly).

**NEWSFLASH from Bob's Rock Shop
(rockhounds.com):**



\$1,000 Reward for Stolen Artifacts

This display of artifacts was stolen on Sunday, October 3, between 3 and 4 pm from the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society Gem Show in Springfield, Illinois.

A white male in his late forties or early fifties was seen leaving the building with the cherry wood case measuring 12 inches wide, 15 inches long, and 1 1/2 inches deep. The case contained 39 artifacts, as well as a 1798 Spanish coin in poor condition. These items represent hundreds of hours in the field and are invaluable to their owners. They are asking for help from the public, as the Sheriff's deputy told them at the scene that the artifacts would probably never be recovered unless they found them themselves.

The owners are offering a \$1,000 reward for the return of this collection. If you have any information that may help them, please call Kevin Binkley or Sue Hogge at (217)-823-3017, or e-mail them at southforksue63.com

EFMLS Accident Insurance Review

by hh

One of the reasons non-profit organizations like The Danbury Mineralogical Soc., Inc., has a Board of Directors is to periodically review the goals of the organization and how we go about achieving them. Member participation in this process is very important, and the club needs to be kept informed on all discussions and vote on the recommendations of the BOD and other committees.

The DMS has a very limited source of income and it is diminishing as the years pass by. It becomes increasingly important to pay close attention to the club finances to be sure we will have sufficient funds for the future and that those funds are used in accordance with the club goals and in the interest of the club as a whole.

One of the expenditures that ought to be reviewed regularly is whether the club ought to continue to carry Accident Insurance on behalf of the members. When this insurance was first introduced to the DMS, via EFMLS, it was believed to provide protections that either never were valid or are no longer in effect.

To help us understand the current Accident Ins. Policy coverage, and evaluate if we ought to continue this coverage, the following questions were submitted to Carl Miller, the Insurance Coordinator for the EFMLS:

1. Is the EFMLS accident policy the primary policy if a club member has other accident or health insurance?

CM: The concept of "primary" has no bearing on the accident policy. The accident policy is an indemnity policy and will pay the covered person regardless of whether there is any other insurance or not.

2. When or during what activities does the accident policy cover the member? For example, is travel to and from field trips and meetings still covered by the EFMLS accident policy?

CM: At the actual activity. During travel would not be covered except under rare situations. Neither of the examples you give would apply.

3. Should a rider be purchased for extended field trips such as a week long collecting trip to Arkansas, or will such a trip be covered in the basic accident policy?

CM: There is no such thing. Again, the travel time and non-collecting time would not be covered.

4. Are non-members ever covered under the accident insurance policy? For example, as guests on field trips or at a meeting or helping out at our show?

CM: No.

5. Does the accident insurance cover members if the trip or event is not sponsored by the club? At one time I was told that insured club members were covered by the accident policy even if they were collecting by themselves on a vacation or a personal collecting trip like a quarry, or at a commercial "collect for a fee" type site.

CM: No. The liability insurance does not apply in such situations either.

6. In your opinion, does it make sense for the DMS to buy the Accident coverage if all or most members have personal accident and health policies?

CM: That is a decision that only your club can make.

There are other questions that should be raised to determine the effectiveness of this Accident Insurance, such as:

- What constitutes a "legitimate" club field trip?
- How much does it actually cost the club?
- Are members covered if they suffer a heart attack or other medical emergency while collecting?
- Is there a deductible provision?

According to Katie Collins, our EFMLS representative, other clubs in CT have opted to not carry the EFMLS Accident Insurance because they feel the members are well protected via their own personal insurance coverage. The DMS might want to look to see if they would prefer to redirect this yearly expense toward something that will be of more benefit to the club.

Looks like they've found water on the Moon! Don't go planning any picnics yet though.

Excerpted from full article with images at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11598813>

Moon's water is useful resource, says Nasa

By Jonathan Amos Science correspondent, BBC News

There are oases of water-rich soil that could sustain astronauts on the Moon, according to Nasa.

Scientists studied the full results of an experiment that smashed a rocket and a probe into a lunar crater last year. The impacts kicked up large amounts of rock and dust, revealing a suite of fascinating chemical compounds and far more water than anyone had imagined.

A Nasa-led team tells Science magazine that about 155kg of water vapour and water-ice were blown out of the crater. The researchers' analysis suggests the lunar regolith, or soil, at the impact site contains 5.6% by weight of water-ice.

"That's a significant amount of water," said Anthony Colaprete, from the US space agency's Ames research centre. "And it's in the form of water-ice grains. That's good news because water-ice is very much a friendly

resource to work with. You don't have to warm it very much; you just have to bring it up to room temperature to pull it out of the dirt real easy."

And he added: "If you took just the 10km region around the impact site and say it had 5% water - that would be equivalent to about a billion gallons of water. I'm not saying that's what's there, but it just shows you that even at these small concentrations there's potential for lots of water."

The Nasa-led team has [published six papers in the American journal](#) describing the findings of the 9 October, 2009, [impacts of the LCROSS spacecraft and its companion rocket stage](#).

The suite of instruments deployed on that day has determined as much as 20% of this dust plume was made up of volatile compounds, including methane, ammonia, hydrogen gas, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. In addition, the instruments saw relatively large amounts of some metals, such as sodium, and mercury. There was even a signature of silver, but this was tiny. Scientists say the water and mix of volatiles could be remnants of comet or asteroid impacts through the eons, but they reckon a number of quite complex chemical and physical processes are also working to cycle and migrate these substances around the Moon.

"The LCORSS mission provided some surprises with significant implications for the creation, transport, collection and archiving of volatiles below the shadows of the south pole," said team-member Peter Schultz from Brown University. "We've opened this lunar closet and discovered things we just didn't expect. And just as the Earth holds its clues to the past climates in the ices at its poles, the Moon also holds clues to past impacts and perhaps even the last stages of lunar volcanism."

The water-ice is not uniformly distributed across the southern pole. Rather, it is held in pockets. Some of these oases are, like in Cabeus, to be found in shadows where LRO's Diviner instrument has sensed temperatures down to minus 244C. Under such conditions, ices will stay fixed for billions of years. But the research indicates there is probably water-ice even in areas which receive some sunlight through the year, provided it is buried in the soil.

"We've dubbed these newly discovered regions 'lunar permafrost areas'; and they're very extensive," said David Paige, Diviner's principal investigator. "This could facilitate future human and robotic explorers in their quest for understanding of the lunar ice, as well as its potential use as resource; because rather than having to brave the cold and dark conditions inside permanent shadow, they could land much more conventionally in areas where the sunlight is shining - at least for part of the year - and then dig a small distance below the surface and access the ice."

Jonathan.Amos-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk
BBC © MMX

There is also an article entitled, A "Wet Moon"? by Vivien Gornitz in the October 2010 issue of Mineral News.

Museum of the Earth, Ithaca NY
<http://www.museumoftheearth.org/>
<http://museumoftheearth.blogspot.com/>

Girl Scout Workshops

November 6 - Cadette/Senior Digging through the Past - 10:30 am to 3 pm
 November 20 - Junior Rocks Rock! - 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Beer & Bivalves

Friday, November 5 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Explore our newest exhibit *Science on the Half Shell: How and Why We Study Evolution* while enjoying snacks and local beer. Tickets \$15 (includes two drink tickets).

Cecil's Dinosaur Holiday Party

Saturday, December 4 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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**! Attention Readers !** If you have stories and/or photos of **John Schroder** that you'd like to share, please send them to Lizzie at [lizziewriter@optonline.net](mailto:lizziewriter@optonline.net) or lend copies of photographs that we can scan for sharing. We've gotten a few things in but would like to get more. John was a member for a long time & is missed by many ... please share your memories !!  
 ~~~~~

Selections from the Institute for American Indian Studies (www.birdstone.org)

In **November**, IAIS will feature the crafts of Jeff Kalin, Primitive Technologist of Cherokee descent. Jeff's Woodland, Mississippian and Mimbres style pottery, decorative gourd containers, and intricate stone carvings exemplify his skill at transforming nature's raw materials into fun and functional art.

Contact the IAIS for details about any of these events.

Arrow Making Workshop: Saturday, November 13, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$\$ limited space

Veterans Day Celebration: Sunday, November 14, 12:00 p.m.

LHAC Lecture Series: *Native American Clay Containers: Connecticut's First Crock Pots.* Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m. \$

Scout Day: Saturday, November 20 \$

Winter Herbal Remedies: Sunday, November 21, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$

Storytelling Celebration: Saturday, November 27, 1:00 p.m. \$

In **December**.... I don't know if there is a featured artist, because there will once again be ...

Winter Indian Market, Saturdays & Sundays only, December 4 through 19, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. !!

Artifact Identification Day: Sunday, December 5, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$ included in regular admission

LHAC Lecture Series: *Native American Communities and Cultures about Lake Waramaug.* Sunday, December 12, 3:00 p.m. \$

IAIS is proud to carry work by exhibiting artists in the museum gift shop. For more information about these and other events, please call (860) 868-0518 or see <http://www.birdstone.org/calendar.html>



Dr. Lucianne Lavin and Jeff Kalin at the Green Corn Festival.

More Upcoming Events:

November 2010

6-7--Exton, PA: "Gemarama 2010"; Tuscarora Lapidary Society; School at Church Farm, Bus. Rte. 30 and Rte. 202; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults and students \$6, seniors \$5, children \$1, see Web site for discount; dealers, finished jewelry, cut and uncut stones, fossils, beads, tools, lapidary supplies, demonstrations of jewelry and lapidary arts, exhibits, children's activities, door prizes, silent auction; contact Jim Johnston, (215) 542-7753; e-mail: information@lapidary.org; Web site: www.lapidary.org

6-7 – Stamford, CT: The Stamford Mineralogical Society will hold its 23rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich, CT 06870. Easily accessible from the Conn. Turnpike (Exit 5 or 6); also 1 block from the Old Greenwich station on Metro North. Hours: Sat. 9:30 AM to 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 4:30 PM

6-7--Melbourne, FL: Show, "Parade of Gems"; Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society; Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4; contact Don McLamb, (321) 723-2592; email: fdjmc@aol.com; Web site: www.canaveral-mgs.com

12 - 14 - International Gem & Jewelry Show. Royal Plaza Trade Center, **Marlborough, Massachusetts.** Contact Phone: 301-294-1640 www.intergem.com Fri-Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 10am-4pm.

12-14--Edison, New Jersey: MalicJewels Jewelry & Gift Show; New Jersey Convention & Expo Center at Raritan Center, Hall D, 97 Sunfield Ave.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 11-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; loose diamonds, colored gemstones, contemporary, antique, estate, costume, custom designed, gold, silver, titanium and beaded jewelry, beading supplies, mineral specimens, gift items; contact Debbie Williams, 270 E. Hunt Hwy., Suite 16, #323, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143, (480) 458-7600; debbie@malicjewels.com; www.malicjewels.com

12-14--Hamburg, New York: Show and sale; GemStreet USA; The Erie County Fairgrounds, The Grange Bldg., 5600 McKinley Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; fine gems, jewelry, beads, fossils, minerals; contact Jane Strieter Smith, (216) 521-4367; Web site: www.gemstreetusa.com

13-14--New York, New York: Show and sale; New York Mineralogical Club; Holiday Inn - Midtown, 440 W. 57th St.; adults \$6, children under 12 free with adult; minerals, gemstones, unique jewelry, fossils, meteorites, lectures, displays, free children's minerals; contact Tony Nikischer, (914) 739-1134

20-21--Lebanon, Pennsylvania: Show and sale, "Gem Miner's Holiday Festival"; Lebanon Expo Center, Rte. 72 and Rocherty Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$5, children under 12 free; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, beads; contact MAGMA, (301) 565-0487; Web site: www.gem-show.com

December 2010

4-5, York, PA - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show York Expo Center - Horticultural Hall, 334 Carlisle Avenue, (888) 729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, <http://www.www.beadshows.com>. Click [HERE](#) for discount coupon.

11 - 12 - Doylestown, PA - The Innovative Beads Expo Delaware Valley College. 845-352-9735 <http://www.innovativeshows.com>

There are not many shows in the Northeast this time of year, I'm afraid....

You can find gem and mineral show listings in hobby and trade magazines as well as online. Here are some fairly comprehensive websites, and there are also listings at the Federation sites by region.

<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugshows.html>

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

Mining Moment

by ERAT

From www.treehugger.com: China is famous for mining [one of the yuckiest, costliest and deadliest natural resources \[coal\]](#). But it's also home to 93 percent of global production of so-called [rare earth elements](#) — including two metals essential for a wide array of green technologies, from hybrid cars to wind turbines. Think of these as [the Achilles' heels of clean tech](#).

I have yet to see much about rare earth metals in real life, at shows, or spotlighted as specimens, but they are spotlighted in real life, all right! Rare earths (not the band) are a collection of elements from the middle of the periodic table of elements (atomic numbers range from 21 to 71), or, to use the technical lingo: “scandium, yttrium, and the fifteen lanthanides” (Wikipedia, which summed it up the shortest). They are rare, not because of dramatic scarcity (although they are not common either), but partly because they do not tend to occur in concentrated ore bodies. So it can be hard to establish a good supply.

Rare earth minerals are used in the manufacture of an increasing number of modern items such as lasers, powerful magnets, superconductors, special batteries, etc. There is basically an increasing worldwide demand for rare earths, not unlike the increasing demands for coal and then petroleum that we have seen historically.

There are a few wrinkles with this trend, and like many wrinkles and ripples, they are inter-related. In the news lately one may see (if one can find anything over the election-season circus) increasing concern over the way that China not only seems to command a large part of world trade in rare earths, but also seems to be ready to test that control in terms of limiting supplies to other countries. China, of course, is also not known for having stringent environmental or human health regulations and practices.

Related links:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11581288>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare_earth_element

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Lack-of-Rare-Earth-Could-Cause-Major-Problems-103898893.html>

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/09/china-tightens-control-over-rare-earth-metals-vital-for-green-technology.php>

<http://www.ggg.gl/Rare-Earth-Elements/Rare-Earth-Elements.htm>

Mineral Club Links

Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut
<http://www.lmscc.org/>

Bristol Gem & Mineral Club
<http://bristolgem.org/>

Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Club
<http://mhvgms.org/>

Orange County Mineral Society
<http://www.orangemineralsociety.com/>

and there are more to be found at
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/clubs.htm>

2011 will be the 125th Anniversary of the New York Mineralogical Club

You can read a little about them at
<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/nymc.htm>
 If you plan to attend any of their meetings, you should know that they have moved to the Holiday Inn Midtown. Their banquet this year will be November 12, and their show that weekend (November 13 – 14).

and Links in General

National Geographic has a number of great web pages. Here is a link to an Archaeology portal, for example:
<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/archaeology/> <http://tinyurl.com/2be74lu>

A neat portal at the Discover magazine site:
<http://discovermagazine.com/topics/environment/earth-science>

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology:
<http://www.vertpaleo.org/>



Display case from the May 2010 “Nature and Native Americans” show at the Putnam Valley Grange.

Photo by Rosemarie Pennella

The DMS is on Facebook!! Are You ?

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Danbury-Mineralogical-Society-PAGE/157499457596134?ref=ts>

There are in fact a LOT of rockhounds – and lapidary hobbyists of all sorts -- on Facebook.

Hobbyists post photos on FB and on Twitter. Check out, for example, this gorgeous image of insects in amber on Twitpic:



This image turned up on my Twitter feed somehow, and I clicked over to view it on Twitpic, and then at Twitpic there was a link to the Discover blog article which you may read [here](#) if you like. The DMS is not on Twitter at this time, and I only follow it sometimes, but if you want to check it out, go to www.twitter.com and sign up. You can find me as “lizziewriter.”

Cranky Rockhounds of All Sorts

by ERAT

Looks like this will be a regular column. This month we'll consider how we treat newcomers and potential new members, etc. Do we remember our own joy and passion at connecting with people who like minerals, field collecting, gems, lapidary, whatever? Or do we focus on making sure that Rules Are Followed and Things are Done Right?

I've seen a couple examples of dreadfully off-putting attitudes, and I suspect we're all guilty of it sometimes, so let's review a little and maybe it will help us be more aware in the future. A month or so ago I was reading a back issue of a minerally inclined publication when I came across the rather surprising title, “Amateurs Threaten Our Research.” Reading on, I understood the writer to be angry about how any idiot with a computer can post anything, accurate or not, on the internet, and also that sometimes people post things that are not merely stupid but actually antagonistic or even offensive. This article dates from 2009, so I cannot excuse its self-righteous horror to the newness of internet resources, and a good scientist's or journalist's deservedly critical observation of them. (If the article were ten years older I might have let it slide.)

The writer had some good points, definitely – but I think there are more constructive and engaging ways to make them. Of course everything that she observed is true, and it is aggravating and frustrating that people can be such idiots, but in this writer's opinion, a diatribe (such as this one?) serves little constructive use. Drawing people back into a desire to learn and share detailed and accurate information seems to me to be a better and more satisfying use of one's energy. Learn things for ourselves, teach those we meet, and reiterate, constructively, that one must always think critically and not believe everything we hear or read. I agree with her content, just not her style – do we want to be the nasty retail clerk who drives customers away from the store?

I have encountered this sort of semi-elitist hostility other places in the mineral hobby as well, for example when dealers, artists, or collectors insist that only the “real” mineral name (such as can be found in bold on mindat.org) is of any value. I agree that trade names such as “New Jade” and “Strawberry Quartz” can be misleading and meaningless, however they do exist, and artists and tradespeople use them, and in fact it is because of a desire to learn more about the vast array of pretty rocks with funny names that many folks first come to a meeting or a show. Sometimes the material is a nice material and useful to artists and artisans, and totally suitable for the application – and one just wants to be clear on what it is, exactly, and what an appropriate and ethical price would be. We'd do better to learn all the various names for materials, and help people understand the shades of meaning, than to pretend that they don't exist.

Then, more recently, I was inquiring about getting more pins from the first organization I mentioned, because I thought I might have lost one of mine, and I always like to have spares to share as well. The contact person, who is generally very helpful and friendly, was concerned. Was I going to give them to people who weren't members? Were they qualified to own these pins? Who knew that the mineralogical hobby was so very exclusive?

Did you leave a BASKET at the SHOW? Call or email Lizzie with a description ... we have an orphan basket !!

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.

The Danbury Mineralogical Society Inc. is a non profit corporation and is affiliated with the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies and The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month from October to June Broadview Middle School, 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 our annual mineral and jewelry show in September.

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*.

*Please Please Please be sure we have your **CORRECT** email address on file! Thank you !! If you absolutely must receive your copy by real mail instead, please let us know that also.*

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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Hello.... anyone want to take on that last point above? Gathering and managing those records could be a really nice, cozy project for the winter....

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The Danburite

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ERA Triano, Editor

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