

# 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 MAY 7, 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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## The May Program will be the Spring Auction.

There may be material from the O&G  
Quarry offered at the auction.

Printed Auction forms were sent out with the April Danburite. Please copy that form as needed or print the forms that are included with this Danburite. Each item you submit to the auction needs to have a form included to facilitate book keeping and to identify the item. Thanks for you cooperation. Much of the proceeds go to the DMS treasury and help pay for our programs.

Remember the advice of the

## WISE OLD ANCIENT AUCTIONEER

**bring you silver pick  
and  
bid high and bid often**

## The June Program

will be a presentation by Mitch Portnoy, Editor of the Newsletter of the New York Mineral Club. The subject of his presentation will be

## What Gives a Mineral Value?

In a PowerPoint presentation, Mitch will cover the dozen or so categories of traits that he believes go into determining a mineral's value. Within each category he will also present some of their subcategories with hundreds of examples. In addition, he will act as his own "devil's advocate" at times, showing that there is usually an opposite opinion in determining a mineral's value that is equally as true.

Please note that this presentation will not be about mineral prices, what dealers charge for specimens or whether mineral specimens can be considered an investment instrument.

## Notes on the April 2009 DMS meeting

Once again there was no business meeting and minutes were not taken.

Secretary Pawloski provided a slide program on the geology of O&G Quarry in Southbury CT.

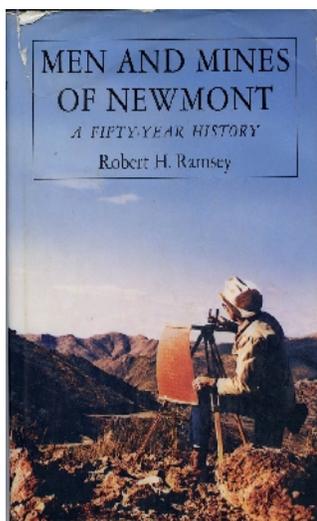
Hank Henning noted the field trip opportunities available to DMS members via the Eastern Field Trip Alliance. Jack Pawloski has been the liaison with EFTA for several years and agreed to continue to fill that post for 2009.

Hank will try to have a selection of the library books available at the meetings. Below is the link to the list of list books on the DMS Website.

[http://www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org/Library\\_List.htm](http://www.danburymineralogicalsociety.org/Library_List.htm)

You can email Hank Henning a request to borrow any of the books on the list and it will be brought to the meeting.

In May the following DMS Library books will be at the meeting and available to members.



### FIELD TRIP REPORT

by Lizzie Triano

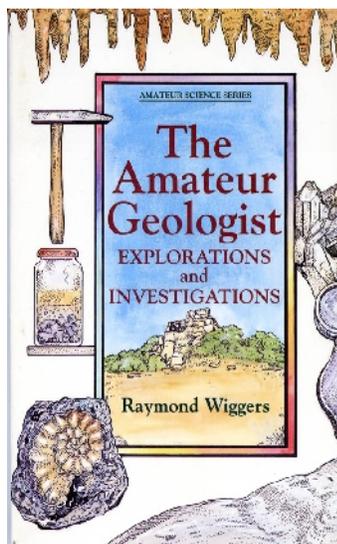
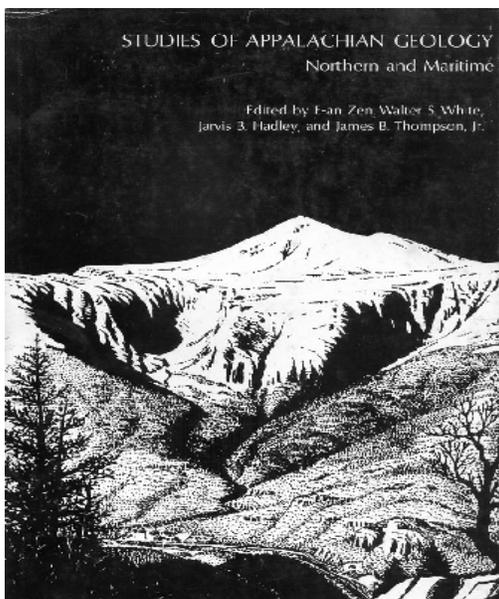
## Mineralogy of Maine



Volume 1: Descriptive Mineralogy  
by Vandall T. King and Eugene E. Foord



Maine Geological Survey  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
Walter A. Anderson, State Geologist



## “Made of Thunder, Made of Glass” [American Indian Beadwork]

by Lizzie Triano

Exhibit at the IAIS through June 30, 2009

Presentation by author/artist/collector Gerry Biron at IAIS April 19, 2009

Have you ever thought about the geometric patterns and flower designs on beaded souvenir items? I know I haven't. The exhibit is worth seeing just for the quantity and quality of mostly late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) beadwork, but Gerry Biron's Powerpoint presentation, and to a

lesser extent, the eponymous book of the collection, takes us on a tour of the (possible/probable) origins and development of different designs. I came to the presentation and exhibit knowing pretty much nothing about the specifics of Northeast Woodland beadwork, but upon doing a little research afterwards (in paper and on the web) I found that it's a subject that has in fact garnered its share of study. So you may already know a bit about it yourself, or you may find yourself motivated to learn more.

Before the advent of the Europeans, native Americans of the Northeast Woodlands used natural materials in their handicrafts, notably shells (such as the purple and white wampum of the quahog) and porcupine quills. There were some dyes available, made from plants mostly, and on the whole they had a fairly limited palette. But then the European traders introduced them to small glass beads, typically from Venice, and the world will never be the same.

Tourists of the Victorian era were drawn to picturesque locations such as Niagara Falls, in part by the newly opened tourist routes and accommodations, in part because of the romantic imagination of the time, fueled by literature and art. Tourists always want souvenirs. Native Americans of the Northeast Woodlands fit their skills and creativity to address this market, creating beaded purses, pincushions, hats, picture frames, and so on. This exhibit primarily



324 - Beaded Bag  
Iroquois type, possibly Mohawk  
from the Kahnawake Reserve near Montreal  
Circa 1914

showcases beaded bags, but there are a few hats and possibly other items as well.

Now, beads don't just decorate things; they adorn culture itself, marking intersections and overlaps of history and trade, philosophy and couture, the struggles of indigenous peoples, the evolution of material sciences, etc. Gerry Biron's presentation thus brought to life the aesthetic tension between the work of mission-school-raised and traditional Native Americans. The children raised in the missions were taught European crafts, aesthetics, language, and religion – of course, those raised among their own peoples learned the traditional crafts, enhanced by contemporary materials or other resources. This quickly developed into two types of designs seen on the beaded “whimsies” -- floral type designs reminiscent of what was and had recently been in fashion in England and Europe, and more geometric patterns related to traditional Iroquois designs. This development of complementary styles was harder to follow in the book and at the exhibit, unless you already know what to look for.

The book, [Made of Thunder, Made of Glass](#) was reviewed in Volume 19 (2007) of [Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers](#), but while the review was written from a mostly well-informed

point of view, I feel that it did not capture the spirit of the presentation. It is hard to appreciate the development through time of such an art form without the specialist's guidance. It would be splendid if Mr. Biron one day made his presentation available perhaps as a podcast or the like.

If you are inclined to pursue some of the more technical details of beadwork purse fashion or Native American glass bead trade, you might want to track down a copy of the proceedings of the International Bead & Beadwork Conference of 22-25 November 2007, Istanbul, and have a look at a couple of papers. Carole Morris, Ph.D., provided “Early 17<sup>th</sup> Century English Beadwork Purses,” and you can't tell me that those items did not have some bearing especially on the missionary schools' art and craft instruction, as well as the development of the cultures which raised the tourists. Also, more to the point, there is “Souvenir Beadwork of the Six-Nations Iroquois,” by Karlis Karklins.



240 - Beaded Bag  
Northeast Woodland type, possibly Iroquois  
Circa 1830s

The IAIS has other events of note for the rockhound or jewelry hobbyist. Most recently, on 25 April, they partnered with the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club for a field trip to Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted to visit the 3,500-year-old soapstone quarries. (The LHAC meets at the museum on the second Sunday of the month, 3:00 p.m.) The

museum sponsors periodic Artifact Identification Days. On the Saturday of this Memorial Day weekend, they will host another Primitive Skills Day. It's a great place to visit, especially for an event, and there are bathrooms and a gift shop.



You can find more of Lizzie's pictures and additional descriptions and comments from this show at the following link :

[Lizzies Beady Stuff](http://www.kimritter.com/weblog/?p=228)

and other beadwork photos at

<http://www.kimritter.com/weblog/?p=228>

<http://www.kimritter.com/weblog/?cat=20>

## LOCAL ROCK SHOWS

**May:16-17: Spring Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show** sponsored by the Cape Atlantic Rockhounds. The Clubhouse, Cologne, NJ

**May:16-17: 41st Annual World of Gems & Minerals** sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61, Leesport, PA.

**May:16-17: 36th Annual Minerals, Gems, Jewelry & Fossils Show** sponsored by the New Haven Mineral Club. Amity Regional Jr. High School, Orange, CT.

**May: 23: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show** hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695), Towson, MD.

**May 30-31: Annual Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show** sponsored by the Orange County Mineral Society. Museum Village, Rt. 17M; Monroe, NY.

**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.

**June 27 – 28 Gilsum NH Rock Swap & Mineral Show! The 45th Annual Show**  
**Location:** Gilsum Elementary School and Community Center, 640 Route 10 in Gilsum (just 10 minutes from Keene).

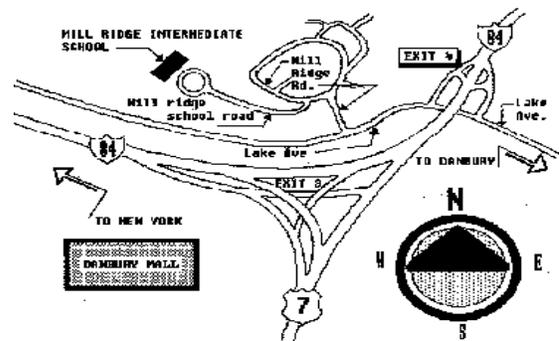
<http://gilsum.org/rockswap.aspx>

**July:11-12: 48th Annual Western Maine Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show** sponsored by the Oxford Co. Mineral & Gem Association. Telstar Regional High School, Bethel, ME

**July: 25-26: 30th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show** sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Tuttle Middle School, So. Burlington, VT.

**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.

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Here is our monthly meeting location

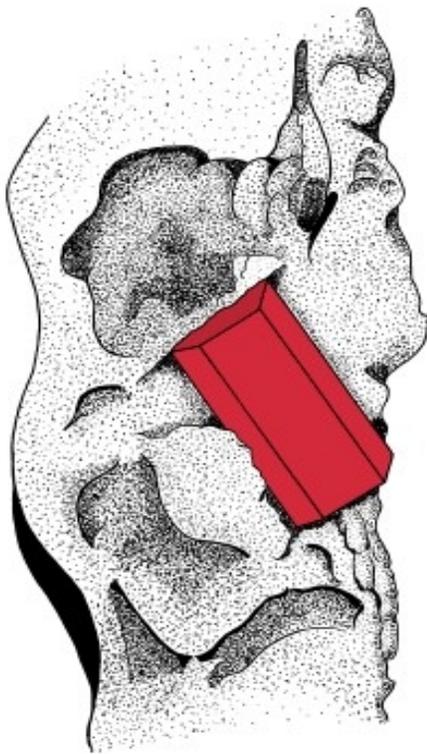


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## Mineral of the Month

# Beryl



**Chemical Formula:**  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$

**Crystal System:** Hexagonal

**Hardness:** 7.5 - 8

**Specific Gravity:** 2.65 - 2.8

**Cleavage:** Imperfect in one direction

**Fracture:** Conchoidal (shell-like)

**Luster:** Glassy (Vitreous)

**Color:** Colorless, blue, green, red, light yellow, pink, white.

**Streak:** None

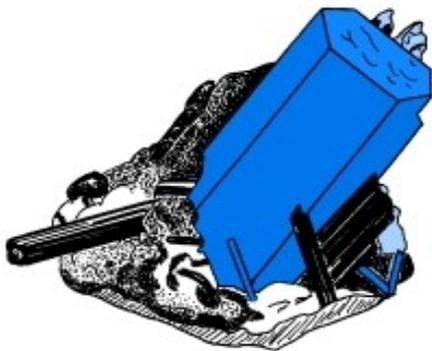
**Uses:** Gemstones.

**Interesting Facts:** Beryl is the main source of the very important element *beryllium*. Beryllium is a very light, very strong metal. When it is mixed with other light metals, like aluminum, the mixture (called *an alloy*) is very strong. Aluminum-beryl alloys are used to make airplanes. Beryllium is also important in the nuclear industry.

**Name:** The green variety of beryl, emerald, is one of the most valuable gemstones. In fact, deep green, high quality emeralds are more valuable than diamonds! Emeralds are commonly created in laboratories. Only expert gemologists can tell the difference between natural emeralds and one created in a lab.

*Above: Red beryl from Utah.*

*Below: Deep blue aquamarine from Africa.*



Are you a member of the *Mineral of the Month Club* yet?

[www.mineralofthemothclub.org](http://www.mineralofthemothclub.org)

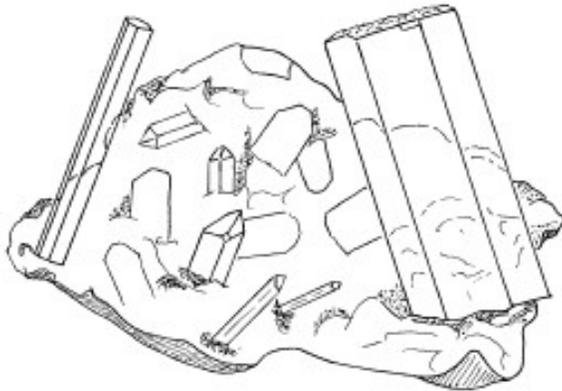


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## Beryl, continued

Later in this issue of *Mini Miners Monthly* you will learn about what causes color in minerals. Some minerals have only one color, like azurite (which is *always* some shade of blue). Others, like beryl, can be found in many different colors. Here are some color varieties of beryl and their individual names.

Yellow beryl is called *heliodor*. It was named after the Greek words *helios* meaning *sun* and *doron* meaning *gift* in reference to the beautiful sun-yellow color of some specimens. This name was given in 1910. The color comes from extremely small amounts (called *trace amounts*) of iron and uranium trapped in the crystal.



To the left are two perfectly clear heliodor crystals on matrix. The specimen is from Russia.

Green beryl is called *emerald*. The name was created from the Greek word *smaragdus* which literally means *a light green, precious stone*. This name was originally given to any light green stone. Today it refers to the dark green variety of beryl only. The color is from trace amounts of chromium and vanadium in the crystal.

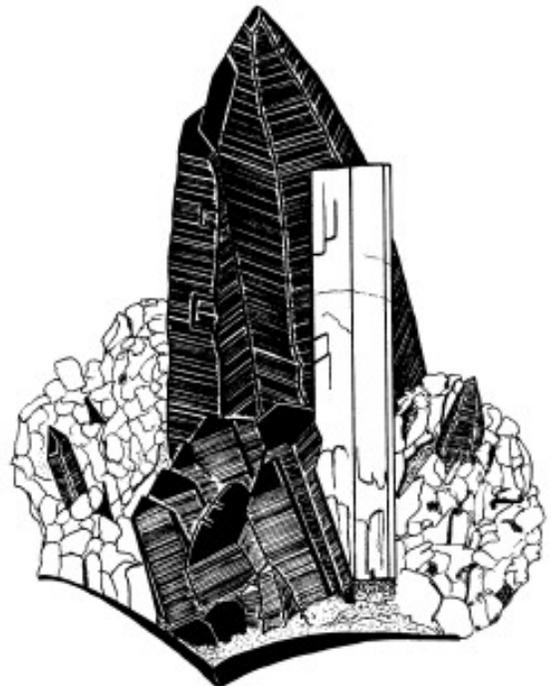


To the left is one of the finest emeralds ever found in the United States. The emerald sits on a matrix of mica and calcite. It was discovered in an opening that the miners named *Aladdin's Cave*. The "cave" was 12 feet long and 5 feet wide. It contained quartz, calcite, pyrite, muscovite, emerald, and many other minerals. It was discovered near Hiddenite, Alexander County, North Carolina.

Blue beryl is called *aquamarine*. This name came from the

Latin phrase *aqua marina* meaning *sea water*, which is a description of the beautiful, light blue color of gem aquamarine crystals. Aquamarine gets its lovely color from trace amounts of iron trapped in the crystal. To the right is a single aquamarine with a group of smoky quartz crystals.

Pink beryl is called *morganite*. It was named after the famous American financier and mineral collector, John Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913). It is also called *rose beryl*.



The MHVG&MS [Mid-Hudson Mineral Club] has invited the DMS to a joint field trip – see their field trip rules below. Please cooperate with the field trip leaders for safety and to keep these few remaining collecting sites available to rockhounds for a few more years..

**I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND INSECT AND TICK REPELLENT – ESPECIALLY KEEP AN EYE ON KIDS – TICK BITES CAN BE SERIOUS .**

## MHVG&MS FIELD TRIP SAFETY RULES

All Collectors Must Be Members of the MHVG&MS, EFTA or Invited Clubs

### FIELD TRIP CONDUCT

Follow field trip leaders directions and rules at all times.

Do not wander off, stay within the limits of the specified collecting area.

Parents stay with their children at all times.

No collecting under hanging walls.

Do not hammer close to the next person.

Turn your face away from a person hammering.

No horseplay / rock throwing / climbing steep slopes.

Be on alert for any dangerous situation:

ticks/ poison ivy / wild animals / snakes

mine shafts / steep drops / deep water

Pay attention to members of the group:

look for signs of illness / heat exhaustion

Do not go collecting alone.

Carry out what you carry in: tools / gear / trash

**No one leaves the collecting site without telling the field trip leader.**



### CLOTHING & SAFETY GEAR

#### MUST HAVE:

Protective Rugged Clothing (layers)

Strong Boots / **WATER** / Gatorade

Energy Snacks / Medications

#### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Gloves / Hat / Waterproof Jacket / Insect Spray

Sunscreen / First Aid Kit / Sunglasses / Kneeling Pad

Whistle (to call for help) / Cell Phone

#### SPECIAL FOR QUARRIES:

Hard Hat / Steel Toes Boots

Club and / or Federation Card

Orange Safety Vest

#### SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

Change of Clothing / Towels / Sweater

Jacket / Mosquito Net Hat / Compass

Waders

### COLLECTING TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

#### MUST HAVE:

Eye Protection / Geology Hammers ( no carpenter's hammers)

Mason's Chisels / Collecting Buckets / Backpack

#### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Paper Towels / Newspapers / Toilet Paper

Plastic Bags / Marker / Walking Stick

#### SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

Crack Hammer / Sledge Hammer /

Shovel / Maddock / Garden Claw /

Screen / UV Lamp / Prybars

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 Danburite*

*The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc. May 2009*

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

AUCTION

THIS MERRY  
MONTH OF MAY

GOING GOING GONE