

The Danburite

The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Inc.

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

April 2013

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PAGE 1

NEXT REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, April 11, 2013

DOORS (may) OPEN AT 7-ish PM (hobby crafting, etc.) - MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE BROADVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
72 Hospital Avenue, Danbury CT 06810

++ New Entry Procedures for School – See Inside ++

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

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

Happy Earth Day !!

*In case you missed the news: Green's Farm
has been SOLD. That's all, folks!*

**The APRIL Program will be the film originally
scheduled for last month.**

President's Message

Greetings fellow rock & mineral collectors (and all
U fossil folks, and lapidary luminaries):

We are having our meeting this month on
the 2nd Thursday of April, rather than the 1st.
Seems the school forgot to tell us (until the day
before) that they were having a big Shindig
(remember that show in the mid-60s??? - if U do,
U are REALLY showing your age - Hullabaloo was
the other one out around the same time) and
could not guarantee enough parking for our
members. Also, the meeting was going to be held
in the cafeteria anywho. Luckily we are still
having our "pow-wow" this month, and not waiting
until May to get together. The presentation will
be on a fantastic new find of Bolivian amethyst.

Anyway, we have a number of things to
mention this time around, mainly concerning the

show in September. Volunteers are sorely needed,
and hopefully it won't be the "same old crew," as
it would be nice to get some new folks helping us.

One new item to bring up is we are thinking
about using an online meeting assistant called
Meetup (www.meetup.com). Rick Sinclair has been
looking into its use and will probably discuss the
application in a little more depth at a future
meeting. I would also like to mention he has been
working VERY diligently on setting up field trips
for each month, starting in April, and extending to
possibly November. Thanx and a "tip of the hat"
go to Rick for his GREAT work on this. One thing
of importance to mention is he will definitely need
help with a few of the trips in that others will be
asked to lead them. The reason for this is it may
be quite a walk from a few of the parking areas to
the collecting sites, and Rick cannot hike for long
distances unfortunately. Please volunteer to
assist, if U are able. It would help the club, and
Rick, quite a bit.

C U on Thursday the 11th - - -

Dan

FIELD TRIP !!

Our first field trip for 2013 will be to the fossil locality at Richard Hill Road in Scoharie NY on Saturday, April 27th. We will meet at the site at 11 am. This gives people plenty of time to get there and reduces the problems with caravaning.

Food is available at local stores. Dress warmly in layers in case it's cold. All you need is a hammer, chisel and wrapping material. A fossil handbook might be helpful.

Please remember that participants **MUST** be a member of either Danbury or Mid Hudson clubs to participate since this is an official club trip and we need to be covered by our insurance (new members welcome – sign up quick!).

Directions to Site:

NY 17 west to exit 94, Rt.206, Roscoe. Follow 206 West for 10 miles to Rt. 30. Turn Right on Rt. 30 and go 63 miles to the Village of Scoharie (a long but very scenic drive).

Alternate route: Take NY Thruway to Catskill (exit 21). Take Rt. 23 west 9 miles to Rt. 145. Take Rt. 145 north 35 miles to Middleville. Turn right onto Rt. 30 north and go 4 miles to Scoharie. IN SCOHARIE, at the flashing light, turn right onto Prospect St. Go 1/4 mile. County Rt. 1B (Rickard Hill Rd.) veers off to the left. Drive up the hill 3/10 mile and you will see the wide open road cut through the shale on the left side. That's it.

***** Go past the road cut further up the hill and turn around. Park along the road cut facing downhill, and pull off the road as much as possible.

DMS Show Stuff!

Our Show will be the weekend after Labor Day, as usual: September 7 – 8, 2013. We'd like to offer GRAB BAGS again! Please comb your collection, closets, storage crates, etc., for suitable specimens! You can bring them to club meetings, BOD meetings, the June swap, etc. Thank You !

REMINDER: New Entry Procedures

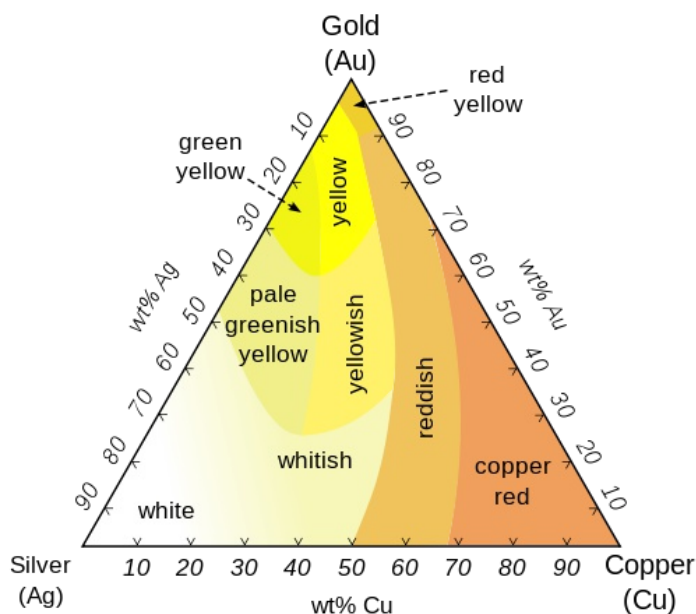
The Danbury school district has enacted new security procedures for all groups using their facilities after hours. We can no longer leave the door open for members to come and go at will. The doors must be kept locked, and someone must be on hand to let people in and out, and confirm that we know them, etc.

This may take a little getting used to. If you arrive between 7 and 7:30, please consider taking a turn as the door-keeper; if you arrive after 7:30 and there is nobody to let you in, please call or text Prez Dan at 845-216-1106 or Lizzie at 203-470-0808, and someone will come let you in. (We plan to have a sign to this effect on the door as well.)

Electrum

So I was on Facebook the other day, in between work stuff (as usual), and got to chatting with a friend about abbreviations in technical writing, which led to how some abbreviations do not resemble their American English words, which led, of course (as all things do) to the Periodic Table. We had a brief skirmish involving throwing odd chemical formulas at each other – she won – and I got to wishing that electrum and oricalchum were elements, or at least had useful abbreviations (Electrum may be written as AuAg).

Electrum is a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver, with the usual smattering of other stuff, such as copper or platinum. It has also been produced artificially. Today it is often known as “green gold,” although in antiquity it may have been called merely “gold” or “white gold.” The “green” has to do with hue rather than environmental righteousness. This chart from Wikipedia may be useful:



Interestingly, the same word was used for electrum and for amber in Latin, and likely other ancient languages, perhaps because of their conductive natures. Some

have said that “orichalcum” (or “aurichalcum”) of Plato was in fact electrum.



Gold var. Electrum, from Nye Co., Nevada, from Wikimedia Commons courtesy of Rob Lavinsky/iRocks

Walter Schumann's Handbook of Rocks Minerals & Gemstones classifies electrum as a subtype of native gold. “Electrum: Gold with a silver content of 15 – 50%” (page 102). Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals does not appear to have any mention of it, nor does the Peterson Field Guide Rocks and Minerals. Desautels' The Gem Kingdom also lacks mention of electrum, although it has two brief sections about electrical properties of gems. Blackburn & Dennen's textbook, Principles of Mineralogy also classifies it among related minerals under gold – or strictly speaking, as a subset of silver, which is a related mineral under gold: “Solid solutions: silver (electrum if more than 20% Ag), (page 233).

People have often used electrum for coinage, as it is more durable than gold, and for plating and other decorative purposes. Interestingly, while beads and jewelry have been around since there was more than one species of *Homo*, coinage may have only been around for about 3,000 years! The British Museum has some nice electrum coin images and very helpful text, including: “The earliest coins come from Lydia in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). From there, electrum coinage (made from the alloy of gold and silver) soon spread to the Greek cities on the west coast of Asia Minor. From its beginnings there in the late seventh century BC, the use and production of coins reached the Greek Islands and the Greek mainland during the course of the sixth century. It is often difficult to tell where a particular coin was produced, because none of these early coins was inscribed with a place name.”

http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/e/electrum_stater_with_a_seal.aspx

An ancient coin called the stater was also produced in electrum, as you can read about on the Israel Museum's website (with more nice images):

<http://www.imj.org.il/exhibitions/2012/WhiteGold/Animals.html> . This site also has a mouse-over zoom, whereby when you “mouse” over the smaller coin image, a magnified section appears in the main area of your screen. This coin has a recognizable stag on it, while the one from the British Museum mentioned above has a stylized dolphin.

While today the term may be mostly an esoteric one, and the material not one we may encounter outside of museum, “electrum” is not an unfamiliar word for many of us, whether we know it from old stories or new video games.

Electrum coins are a fine category among numismatic dealers. You could do worse than to augment your mineral collection and scientific knowledge by purchasing some ancient coins and learning related history. I haven't found any entry-level ancient electrum coins yet, though. Perhaps the finest contemporary authority on ancient electrum coins we are likely to come across in the U.S. is American Numismatic Society Executive Director, Dr. Ute Wartenberg Kagan.



Thessalonikan coin circa 1081, public domain via Wikimedia Commons. (Histamenon) user Cplakidas

The Wikipedia entry for electrum is long and detailed, and apparently good enough to be copied in part by the Princeton University website:

<http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Electrum.html> .

Wanna see more electrum images fast? Try Pinterest...

<http://pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=electrum>

Brad Smith's BenchTips

I know how difficult it is for some clubs to start or maintain an active program for children interested in the hobby. If there is a group in your club that's doing this, they should know about Mini Miners Monthly and other resources for your pebble pubs produced by www.diamonddanpublications.net [Lizzie gets this & always has a copy to share, just ask!]

CUTOFF WHEELS -- Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of hot steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS -- When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. Only a minute or so is needed, and in fact you don't even need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit.

You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

The Latest in Stolen Minerals

On February 20, a variety of things were stolen from the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, OR. Details at the link:

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/ckevjym>



~~ Fun Stuff ! ~~

BOOKS, Books, books...

From AFMS Newsletter – April 2013

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Book Review for a Great New Kid's Book: A Rock Is Lively

I work in academic publishing and as a result, I get sent to annual conventions of the American Library Association, where the huge halls of city convention centers are filled to bursting with publishers and their books. In addition to fulfilling the duties of my day job, I always make a point of cruising the rows of trade publishers and children's book publishers to see if there's anything new worth recommending to clubs with pebble pups and juniors.

This year, I made a real gem of a find: *A Rock Is Lively*, by author Dianna Hutts Aston and illustrator Sylvia Long. Published in 2012 by Chronicle Books in San Francisco, this is as gorgeous to peruse as it is informative to read.

Long's colorfully detailed paintings of rocks and minerals on the cover caught my eye, as did the poster they were handing out for free in the booth. As I read, I became hooked, learning new things that I immediately incorporated into a school presentation I had scheduled for the following week—such as the melting temperature of rocks, the oldest rocks found on earth, uses of rocks, and more.

A brief and easy read, with fun-filled facts on each page beautifully illustrated with richly colorful paintings, this is the perfect book to get for your club library and/or to recommend to your younger pebble pups. It'll show them that rocks are not only interesting and fun—but lively, too!

Genesis and Classification of Agates and Jaspers: a New Theory

by Marco Campos-Venuti

Do you like agates and jasper? Of course you do! Bob Jones spotted this book and featured it in *Picks & Pans* of the February 2013 Rock & Gem: "This 160-page book includes more than 300 color photos and diagrams of agate formation. It is a remarkable study of agates and jaspers, and should be read by anyone who collects or is interested in these colorful patterned silicates. Collectors and students will find its insights informative and thought provoking."

<http://www.agatesandjaspers.com/>

AND eBooks too! Also via February 2013 R&C: "In 2012, The Ganoskin Project announced its acquisition of more than 40 rare, historical metalsmithing books, which it is making available to the metal-working community at large in eBook format."

http://www.ganoskin.com/listing/Category/rare_historical_Metalsmithing_ebooks

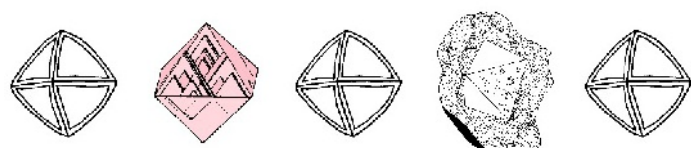
Celebrate Earth Day Every Day

Jewelry-making tips from Beadworks Norwalk. (And did you know they have a new store? "After 25 years of dedicated service in Norwalk, we are very excited to announce the opening of our third store in Fairfield, CT. Our newest location at 1700 Post Road in Fairfield will continue to offer gemstone, semi-precious, pearl, and Czech glass beads. Fairfield will carry an emphasis on new trends, brighter colors, kid-friendly designs, and all the materials you will need to recreate the latest looks of high-end designers."

4 ways to minimize your carbon foot-print while making jewelry

1. Use natural and recycled materials. We carry a great selection of recycled Sari Silk for stringing and many of our African beads are re-purposed from old records and glass.
2. Make found object jewelry. Wire wrap some cool looking buttons to turn into earrings. Hot glue some old fabric to make a funky ring. Or use old maps to create interesting collage pieces.
3. Avoid using plastic beads. Plastic is a useful and lightweight material that is great because you can alter it's coloring so easily. But all plastic at the end of the day is created from oil. The production of plastic beads is not good for the environment. In the long run plastic beads have a shorter life span than natural gemstones, which can be passed on for years to come.
4. Up-cycle some jewelry. Take an old necklace you don't wear anymore and reuse the beads to make something new. It may be hard cutting apart something you used to wear - but it's better than letting good beads collect dust!

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/ctgb775>



How about some more GeoWords of the Day?

geodiferous (ge-o-dif'er-ous) Containing geodes.

ion pairing A property of ionic solutions in which certain anions and cations are not randomly distributed throughout the solution but are in closer proximity to each other due to electrostatic attraction. Can be described by thermodynamic association constants that are similar to other equilibrium constants. Plays important roles in the solubility of calcium carbonate and other minerals in seawater, the partial pressure of dissolved carbon dioxide in seawater, the absorption of sound in seawater, and other oceanic processes.

syndimentary (syn"-sed-i-men'-ta-ry) Accompanying deposition; specif., said of a sedimentary ore deposit in which the ore minerals formed contemporaneously with the enclosing rock.

GeoWords brought to you by the American Geosciences Institute. All terms and definitions come from the [Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition Revised](#).

News from Around the Collecting World

New York Mineralogical Club. Their April bulletin was brimming with good stuff as usual. I guess a club in the Big Apple would just have to have more going on than us little guys out in the sticks. Sigh, sigh, sigh. If anyone is inclined to trek down there for their April 10th meeting, the speaker will be Gail Brett Levine, Executive Director of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers, educating attendees about appraisals: "What's Responsible and What's Ethical in an Appraisal Document."

Attend the NYMC meeting Wednesday, April 10, from 6 – 10 pm at the Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan (57th Street and 10th Avenue) or treat yourself to one or both of her books from Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/gail-brett-levine>. Or maybe you are more sophisticated and could use something from here: <http://www.najaappraisers.com/html/products.html>.

Garnet Gazette of the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Call for Entries: Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Photography

Deadline for submissions: Friday, August 2, 2013
Entry Fee: None

For the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society's 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show & Sale coming up Saturday & Sunday, September 21-22, 2013, at Gold's Gym Family Sports Complex, 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. The MHVGMS (www.mhvgms.org) is seeking entries for its Second Annual photographic exhibit to complement their annual gem & mineral show event. The theme is "Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils." The two categories are "Micro Mineral Photography" (photography with the aid of magnification) and "Macro Mineral Photography" (photography without the aid of magnification). Photographs must clearly display an individual or set of rocks, minerals, or fossils. Please do not photograph jewelry. There is no entry fee or limit on the number of submissions, however no more than one or two photographs will be selected per applicant, per category.

The annual gem & mineral show & sale will occur September 21-22 at Gold's Gym Family Sports Complex in Poughkeepsie, NY. The photography exhibit will accompany the gem & mineral show. Admission to the gem & mineral show will be necessary to view the exhibit. Photographs will not be for sale, however business cards and/or artist contact information may be left at the show for distribution to the public. The photographs may be judged.

Please submit a digital copy of your submission to stephanie.p.larose@gmail.com by August 2, 2013.

Please include the subject line "Photography Submission" in your email.

Applicant, if selected, must mat and frame their work in a frame size not to exceed 16"x20" (exceptions may be allowed, but please request an exception).

Submissions must be wired for hanging purposes.

Applicant, if selected, must be prepared to deliver their work for setup on Friday, September 20 between 1pm and 5pm at Gold's Gym Family Sports Complex at 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Applicant must pick up their work between 4pm and 7pm on Sunday, September 22.

Submission of artwork is at your own risk. The Mid-Hudson Gem & Mineral Society and Gold's Gym Family Sports Complex are not responsible for works displayed at the show or works not picked up at the end of the show.

Any questions, please email

stephanie.p.larose@gmail.com.

A copy of this announcement may be obtained at [http://mhvgms.org/annual_show/Call for Entries 2013 Mineral Photography.pdf](http://mhvgms.org/annual_show/Call_for_Entries_2013_Mineral_Photography.pdf)

Write for Us, or for . . . Send material to lizzie@lizziewriter.com. Heck, even just send a "so how's the Danburite going?" reminder maybe around the 20th?

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 www.diamonddanpublications.net.

You can submit dinosaur-related artwork to Mike Fredericks at Prehistoric Times! Mike's email is pretimes@comcast.net and the magazine website is www.prehistorictimes.com.

Museums and Other Fun Places

(Got ideas for places we should add? Please send them to lizziewriter@optonline.net.)

The Institute for American Indian Studies (www.IAISMuseum.org)

note new website!

860-868-0518

(Please visit their website to see full array of events including children's events and camp information.)

Artist Corner

IAIS is proud to highlight the twined basketry of **Vera Longtoe Sheehan**, Elnu Abenaki, for the months of April and May. Vera began her journey as a fiber artist as a child. From her father she learned how to harvest and extract the plant fibers ultimately creating twined bags, textiles, sandals and containers in the way her family has for countless generations.

Come meet Vera at the Artist Reception on Sunday, April 7th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm!

Nature's Bounty: Foraging for a Healthy Lifestyle
Sunday, April 14th 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Locally grown organic food tastes better and is free of dangerous chemicals but what about wild plants?

Right in your backyard are many types of wild edibles that are not only delicious but scientific evidence has shown contain higher and more complete amounts of the nutrients we need. Join **Andy Dobos and Deneen Bernier** of Three Red Trees School of Natural Living as they explore some common, edible plants of Connecticut. Learn to identify them by shape, texture and scent and discuss preparation methods to please your palate. **Fee: \$15; \$12 IAIS Members. CT Educators may earn 0.3 CEUs.**

Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club Lecture Series:
"Ten Thousand Years of Connecticut Prehistory: A Brief Introduction"

Sunday, April 14th 3:00 pm

Noted archaeologist, **Ernie Wiegand**, will present an overview of Native American prehistory and adaptation in southern New England as revealed by the archaeology of Connecticut and surrounding areas. Beginning with the Ice Age, Native Americans entered the Northeast and began a long process of adaptation and adjustment to a variety of environmental conditions over several thousand years.

Dr. Wiegand is the coordinator of Norwalk Community College's 'Archaeology as an Avocation' certificate program in archaeology and works as a consulting archaeologist for public and private groups complying with federal Cultural Resource Management regulations.

Fee: \$5 General Public; Free to LHAC Members

Native American Walk

Sponsored by the Steep Rock Association

Saturday, April 27th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm*

Delve into the Native American history of Bee Brook, Meeker Swamp, and Waramaug's Preserve.

IAIS Director of Research & Collections, **Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D.**, will lead participants on a leisurely walk through the meadows and woodlands of the Macricostas Preserve, the homeland of Native American communities for thousands of years while discussing the local archaeological discoveries and the importance of the natural resources to the indigenous peoples.

**rain date 4/28/13*

Location: Macricostas Preserve Parking Lot on Christian Street.

To register please visit Steep Rock's website

(<http://steeprockassoc.org/whats-happening/>)

Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club

Field School

Monday, May 6th - Friday, May 10th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Did you know that Native Americans were raising families in Connecticut thousands of years before the pyramids were built in Egypt? The Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club is offering an Archaeology Field School to be held at a 5,000 year old excavation site in Litchfield County. This non-accredited field school will teach the basics of mapping, excavation techniques, artifact identification and the documentation process. Call IAIS for more information or to register. Students under the age of 13 who are especially interested in archaeology are welcome to participate with adult supervision.

Fee: \$125.00 (includes cost of club membership for 2013)

Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club presents

"The Paleo Project — A Survey of Paleo-Indian Distributions and Migration Routes in Connecticut"

Sunday, May 12th 3:00 pm

Michael C. Bouchard, avocational archaeologist and author of The Archaeology and Ecology of the Laurel Beach Encampment and The Joshua Bouchard Site, will present a lecture on his current study of Paleo Indians in Connecticut.

Mr. Bouchard will discuss Paleo-Indian distribution patterns, migration routes, population density, the changing environment at the beginning of the Holocene period, its effect on the Paleo-Indian, and glacial events that impacted Paleo-Indian migration in the Connecticut area, including survey strategies, problems, and conclusions.

Fee: \$5 General Public; Free to LHAC Members

Artifact Identification Day

Sunday, May 19th 1:00 pm

Did your spring cleaning uncover mystery items that you think might have been made by Native Americans? Bring your local stone artifacts or American Indian cultural items to IAIS for identification by IAIS Director of Research and Collections, **Dr.**

Lucianne Lavin, a specialist in Eastern Woodland material culture. Limit 12 items per person please.

Fee: Included in regular museum admission: \$5 Adults; \$4.50 Seniors;

\$3 Children; IAIS Members Free.

Visit the **Four Directions Gift Shop, Children's Shop and Book Store!** It is the perfect place to shop for Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduations, offering one of the finest selections of traditional and

contemporary Native-made crafts and fine art as well as unique gifts and hard to come by publications including gently used books at a discounted price.

During the months of May and June they are offering 10% off, 20% for IAIS Members, on all items over \$5, excluding those on consignment.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

13th MOHICAN/ALGONQUIAN PEOPLE'S SEMINAR

September 28, 2013 at the NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

The Native American Institute of the Hudson River Valley and the New York State Museum invite you to submit a paper or other presentation to be given at the 13th Mohican/Algonquian Peoples Seminar held at the NYS Museum in Albany. Topics can involve any aspect of Northeastern Native American culture from prehistory to the present. The seminar attracts attendees from Native American enthusiasts, local historians, as well as from academia. In general presentations are allotted 20 minutes speaking time followed by a brief Q&A period. Sessions will be held in the morning and afternoon (between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM, with a break for lunch).

Interested parties are encouraged to submit a one page abstract that includes a brief biographical sketch and notes any special scheduling and/or equipment needs. PowerPoint is recommended for slide presentations; projection equipment is available on site. For presentations other than traditional papers please describe the content and media that will be used to make the presentation. The deadline for abstract submission is June 1, 2013. Let us know if lodging for one evening is desirable for presenters coming from some distance.

The selection committee, the NAI Board, will notify presenters no later than July 1, 2013. A final paper meeting common publication standards is not required but is requested---standard formats such as PDF or Word are suggested and a printed copy as well for our files.

Please send abstracts to:

Warren F. Broderick

PO Box 124, Lansingburgh Sta.

Troy, NY 12182

Email : wbroder2@nycap.rr.com.

Telephone: (518)-235-4041.

Bruce Museum

Greenwich, CT

<http://brucemuseum.org>

203-869-0376

New York State Museum, Albany NY

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/>

(518) 474-5877 *Free Admission !! closed Sundays*

The Museum offers approximately 12 new exhibitions each year on a wide range of subjects. Exhibitions are often developed with our own extensive collections or traveled from renowned museums across the country.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum

Cornwall, NY

www.hhnaturemuseum.org

845-534-5506, ext. 204

New Exhibit: Mastodons: Ice Age to Discovery

(Opened 1/26)

Lakeville Iron Trail Hike at Sterling Forest

Saturday, April 13 from 10:30am-1:30pm. Bring water and a bag lunch

Location: Sterling Forest Visitors Center. For adults with or without children and children age 5 and older *Pre-paid registration required.* To register online [click here](#) or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Admission: Adults-\$7 Museum members: Adults-\$5 Join Doc Bayne, regional historian and naturalist for a fascinating hike on the Lakeville Iron Trail. Learn about the first iron industry in NY State (1736-1923) where the great chain at West Point was made. Visit historic locations including where the miners lived and worked. A moderate hike with one steep section.

Rutgers Geology Museum, New Brunswick NJ

(<http://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/>)

(please note that there is no "www" in their URL)

732-932-7243 museum@rci.rutgers.edu

Museum exhibits include a wide variety of geological, anthropological, and natural history specimens.

~ Events Calendar ~

April

12 – 14, Edison, NJ – NY / NJ Gem and Mineral Show. 2013 NY / NJ Gem and Mineral Show: 200 exhibitors with minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, meteorites, gems, jewelry, gold, silver, turquoise. <http://ny-nj-gemshow.com/> Special exhibit: *The Minerals and Fossils of New York and New Jersey*
[New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center](#) (97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison NJ)

18 - 21, Rochester, NY – 40th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, organized by: [Rochester Academy of Science, Mineral Section](#). Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport (175 Jefferson Road)

20 - 21, West Mifflin, PA – Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show organized by: [The Monongahela Rockhounds](#). Skyview Hall, West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Company #4 (660 Noble Drive)

27, Ogdensburg, NJ -- Sterling Hill Super Dig 2013, organized by: [Sterling Hill Mining Museum](#) and [Delaware Valley Earth Science Society](#) Sterling Hill Mining Museum (30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg).

27 – 28, Franklin, NJ – 41st Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show, organized by: Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society and the New Jersey Earth Science Association and [Sterling Hill Mining Museum](#) [Franklin Borough School](#) (50 Washington Avenue, Franklin). Indoor/outdoor

27 – 28, Ogdensburg, NJ – Sterling Hill Garage Sale - rocks, minerals, mining & lapidary equipment, organized by: [Sterling Hill Mining Museum](#) Sterling Hill Mining Museum (30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg).

May

3 - 4, Elkridge, MD – 41st Annual Atlantic Micromount Conference organized by: Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area MHA Conference Center (6820 Deerpath Road)

4 - 5, Pittston, PA – Treasures of the Earth: 10th Annual Show and Sale, organized by: The Mineralogical Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania Oblates of St. Joseph (1880 Highway 315)

4 – 5, Topsfield, MA – 50th Annual New England Gem & Mineral Show, organized by: [North Shore Rock & Mineral Club](#). Topsfield Fairgrounds (Route 1 North)

18 – 19, Hamilton Township, NJ – Cape Atlantic Rockhounds Club NEW Spring Show. 9 am - 5 pm “Rain or Shine.” Clubhouse Grounds, 2643 Cologne Ave. – Between Rtes 322 & 30 Contact: Bill Bowman, 218 Laurel St., Vineland, NJ 08360 ~ Phone: 856-776-1739.

Email : capeatlantic_rockhounds@yahoo.com. Campers may set up on Fri, from Noon until dark

18 - 19, Leesport, PA – 45th Annual *World of Gems and Minerals*: Jewelry, Bead, Mineral and Fossil Show organized by: [Berks Mineralogical Society](#) [Leesport Farmer's Market](#) (Route 61)

25, Towson, MD – 24th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show organized by: [Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society](#). Ruhl Armory (1035 York Road). Saturday only, 10 am – 4 pm. FREE Admission. Top mineral dealers, original jewelry, silent auctions, door prizes.

31 – 3 June, Hauppague (Long Island), NY – EFMLS Convention & Show organized by: [Island Rockhounds](#) and [Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club](#). Sheraton Long Island (110 Motor Parkway). That's Friday through Monday, yes: Friday includes a lighthouse tour, cracker barrel, and the EFMLS annual meeting. Saturday and Sunday are the shows, banquets, awards & other hoopla. Monday there will be a field trip as yet to be determined. Actual show runs 10 – 5 Saturday and Sunday. Theme: *Long Island Lighthouses and Related Geology*. Direct convention questions to Cheryl Neary ciervo.neary@gmail.com or cell 516-449-5341.

June

1 – 2, Riverdale, NJ – Riverdale Outdoor Gem & Mineral Show & Swap organized by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Glenburn Estate, 211 Hamburg Turnpike. 9 – 5, rain or shine. FREE ADMISSION to everyone, FREE Picnic Area, and lots of great dealers displaying and selling a vast array of:

- Gemstones
- Crystals
- Mineral Specimens
- Fossils
- Fluorescent Minerals
- Jewelry

See amazing "glowing" fluorescent rocks and minerals in the big green barn!! Food and refreshments available including the "Famous" Coney Island Brick Oven Pizza!!! Come on out and enjoy a day surrounded by Earth's Treasures, and Nature's Beauty!

<http://nojms.webs.com/riverdaleshowswap.htm>

1, Macungie, PA – *Spring Mineralfest* - 60th semi-annual Mineralfest, organized by: [Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association](http://www.pennsylvaniaearthsciences.org). Macungie Memorial Park (Poplar Street) Indoor / outdoor

1 - 2, Hauppauge (Long Island), NY – EFMLS Convention & Show organized by: [Island Rockhounds](http://www.islandrockhounds.com) and [Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club](http://www.suffolkgem.com). Sheraton Long Island (110 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge). Theme: *Long Island Lighthouses and Related Geology*.

8 - 9, Monroe, NY – Annual Mineral - Gem - Jewelry - Fossil Show, Sell & Swap by: [Orange County Mineral Society](http://www.orange-county-mineral-society.org). Museum Village (1010 Route 17M)

8, Kent, CT – Annual Swap and Sale at the Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science at Connecticut Antique Machinery Association grounds, Route 7. Sponsored by CAMA and the Danbury Mineralogical Society. Jewelry, minerals, rocks and fossils for sale and trade. Tour the new exhibits in the Mining Museum. Free Admission. NEW VENDORS WELCOME.
<http://www.ctamachinery.com/11th-annual-mineral-and-gem.html>

*July**August**September*

18 – 22, Jacksonville FL – 2013 AFMS Convention & Show sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. AFMS and SFMS: Marriott Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road. 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786. Mention AFMS for \$82 room rate – offer expires 8/5/2013. JGMS 25th Annual Gem & Mineral Show "Heavens and Earth" September 20 – 22 2013 Morocco Temple. 40+ retail dealers, fantastic exhibits and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, lectures on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations, workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions & more. [Http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org](http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org)

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

<http://www.mineralfest.com/calendar.html>

<http://www.rocksandminerals.org/Coming%20Events/coming-events.html>

<http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

<http://www.mindat.org/eventlist.php>

<http://gemshows.blogspot.com/>

Rock shows as viewed from southern Ontario, Canada:
<http://www.rocksforkids.com/Family%20Excursion%20Destinations.htm>

You can find bead & jewelry crafting shows here:

<http://www.rings-things.com/Show/show.php>

<http://www.justbeads.com/user/EventList.cfm>

<http://www.festivals-and-shows.com/gem-jewelry-bead-shows.html>

Follow-ups

Electrum

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/secondary/SMIGRA*/Electrum.html

<http://www.newark.osu.edu/facultystaff/personal/jstjohn/Documents/Common-minerals/Electrum.htm>

<http://www.mindat.org/min-1365.html>

<http://www.numismatics.org/>

<http://numismatics.org/About/Utekagan>

<http://numismatics.org/Store/CoinHoardsX>

<http://ansmagazine.com/Spring05/Greek>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrum>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orichalcum>

http://www.academia.edu/Documents/in/Electrum_Coinage

<http://chasingaphrodite.com/tag/ute-wartenberg-kagan/>

<http://pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=electrum>

Fracking

From Orion magazine (found via Christian Century)

41. No comprehensive study on the human or animal health impacts of fracking has ever been conducted. However, using a case study approach, veterinarian Michelle Bamberger and Cornell biochemist Robert Oswald have been studying the impact of gas drilling on livestock, horses, pets, wildlife, and people who live in the gaslands of Pennsylvania. Nondisclosure agreements, trade secrets, litigation, and a general atmosphere of intimidation make their investigation difficult. So far, as described in a paper published in the environmental policy journal *New Solutions*, the team has documented widespread evidence of health and reproductive problems. In cattle exposed to fracking fluid: stillborn calves, cleft palates, milk contamination, death.

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/7005>

Mineral Club Links

Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut
<http://www.lmscc.org/> (also on Facebook)

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

Connecticut Valley Mineral Club
<http://www.cvmmineralclub.org/> (also on Facebook)

Stamford Mineralogical Society
<http://www.stamfordmineralsociety.org/>

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

New Haven Mineral Club
<http://www.newhavenmineralclub.org/>

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

The North Jersey Mineralogical Society
<http://nojms.webs.com/>

North Shore Rock and Mineral Club
<http://www.nahant.com/nsrmc/2011-Welcome.html>

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

While looking for more info about one of the shows I came across this site ... mineral hobbyist stuff in the DC area: http://mc-computing.com/other/Mineral_COE.html. Just in case you'll be traveling that way...

The DMS is on Facebook!! Are You ?

There are in fact a lot of rockhounds – and lapidary hobbyists of all types -- on Facebook. Sometimes the link will say “closed group” or you will have to send a request to join, and that is just to try to keep out spammers, so don't worry about it – not a test or anything like that.

So sign in or sign up at www.facebook.com and search for Danbury Mineralogical Society PAGE. Come on, you know you want to!

While you are there, check out the IAIS' page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Institute-for-American-Indian-Studies/94523613907?ref=ts> and

Rock, Gem and Mineral Clubs at <http://www.facebook.com/RockGemMineralClubs>

You can see lots of fun shared photos (and meet other rockhounds) in the group “The Rockhound Connection”

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/169785333057/10150901166988058/>

Mindat has a FB “group” page also, at
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/mindat/>
 and there is their sibling page for Gemdat:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/141931992617518/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

American Geosciences Institute has a page at
<http://www.facebook.com/agiweb>

... and **Twitter**

I like Twitter because, properly used, it can provide a stream of links to useful and interesting news, minus the chit-chat that makes FB so “social.”

The American Museum of Natural History
<https://twitter.com/amnh>

New York Times Science feed
<https://twitter.com/nytimesscience>

Science feed from The Times (of London)
<http://www.twitter.rs/TimesScience>

Science policy news <https://twitter.com/ScienceInsider>

and of course our friend Robyn Hawke's other feeds
<https://twitter.com/aflonthewall>

If you really must know mine, which probably rarely or never gets anything hobby-related that doesn't also appear on the club's FB wall, it's
<https://twitter.com/lizziewriter>

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Editor Emeritus	Hank Henning	email hank@bestweb.net

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 at 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.

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. Cancellations and other critical updates are disseminated by e mail and on our Facebook page as well as the website.

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.

As an educational non-profit society, part of our function is to find and share information that may be of interest to our membership as well as to earth science and jewelry hobbyists in general. Where possible, we attain permission to reprint materials found elsewhere, and consider these excerpts and references to be covered under the Fair Use clause of copyright law (Section 107).

The Rye Arts Center Presents

Nature's Art:

GEODES

From the collection of
Robert R. Wiener

April 16-May 24, 2013

Curated by:

Gail Harrison Roman, Ph.D.

Come explore! Learn about the relationship between art and science at this unique exhibit featuring more than 200 geodes from around the world. On loan from a private collector, these colorful geodes form the basis for a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding how nature creates and informs different forms of art.

About the Exhibit

The multi-media exhibit and presentation will feature:

- * Demonstration of the relationship between color, light, and texture *
- * Art and literary references to geodes, gems, and rocks *
- * Complementary works such as earth-themed paintings *
- * Discussion of environmental issues *
- * Examples of industrial and design uses of geodes *

About the Tour

Available to groups of all ages, free tours will be provided by trained RAC docents. For school groups, docents will offer age-appropriate activities that focus on interdisciplinary investigation and project-based learning experiences. These include art project demonstrations using natural based pigments, creating faux-geodes, creative writing and story-telling. We also offer an optional hands-on art project for a materials fee of \$5 per person.

Hours: Guided group tours are available during RAC Gallery hours: Tues. 9:30-3:30 pm; Wed-Fri 10-4; Sat. 9:30-3:30 pm. Tours must be scheduled in advance.

To schedule a tour: To book a one-hour docented tour, please contact Vicky Blank at The Rye Arts Center: 967-0700, or email vickyblank@ryeartscenter.org. Please indicate whether you would like to include the optional art project.

Cost: Docented tours are provided free of charge; contributions are welcome to help defray the cost of the exhibit. Optional art project requires a materials fee of \$5 per person.



Nature's Art: Geodes is made possible through the generosity and support of the Wallace Fox Foundation and Houlihan Lawrence Realty of Rye.

The Rye Arts Center, 51 Milton Road, Rye, NY 10580 www.ryeartscenter.org



This event and programs are made possible in part by ArtsWestchester with funds from Westchester County Government and support from the New York State Council on the Arts.