

*Meeting Place: Evergreen Avenue School
Woodbury, New Jersey*

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM, 2nd Wednesday of month

*Meeting Date: **November 9, 2005***



Main Program

Our esteemed member and 2nd Vice President, **Dr. Louis Detofsky**, will be lecturing on the flora, fauna and geology observed on of his recent trip to Costa Rica

Junior Rockhounds

Our esteemed member and 1st Vice President, **Gerald Feigin**, will be presenting a program on glaciers and related minerals

*Be sure to witness the battle between the Club's VPs at this months meeting when both put on programs to win the hearts and souls of the membership heading into elections.

**Field Trip opportunities see page 5 for details.

***Next months meeting: elections, gift exchange and holiday party be there or you'll surely be elected.



American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies



Eastern Federation
of
Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



Special Congress
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DVESSCAPADES

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society – DVESS

BACKGROUND

The Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS), a non-profit organization, was founded in 1956 and incorporated in the state of New Jersey in 1957. The Society promotes interest, knowledge, and the development of skills in the “earth sciences.” These interests include mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, archeology, and local preservation. The Society supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through June, at the Evergreen Avenue School in Woodbury, New Jersey. At 7:30 pm members meet to socialize, view displays, sign the registry and receive a door-prize ticket, toward a specially chosen specimen. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM and include the evening’s program followed by the monthly business meeting, concluding around 10:00 PM. Meetings are open to the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

See the Membership Chairperson for an application for membership in the Society. Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities and to receive a newsletter when published. Sponsoring memberships are entitled to all of the above plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Membership rates for the Society are:

Regular Membership

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each family member
\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each family member

Sponsoring Membership

<u>Level</u>	<u>1st Member</u>	+	<u>Additional Members</u>	=	<u>Receive</u>
“Silver”	\$50.00	+	\$5.00	=	Geode Specimen
“Gold”	\$75.00	+	\$5.00	=	Native Gold Specimen
“Platinum	\$100.00	+	\$5.00	=	Premium Specimen

Dues are renewable each year in January

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc., - DVESS
P.O.Box 372
Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

DVESS Website:
<http://www.dvess.org>

EFMLS Website:
<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>

Editor's Notes

Editor is not responsible for authenticity of information in any articles submitted for publication. Nor are the opinions expressed in the “DVESScapades” necessarily those of the officers of the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc., and/or the editors.

To submit an article for publication in the DVESScapades contact the Newsletter Editor.

DVESS 2005 SPONSORS

Harvey Cantor – Platinum
Gerald Feigin – Platinum
Barbara Haulenbeek - Silver

Evergreen Avenue School
160 N. Evergreen Ave.
Woodbury, N.J. 08096
Privilege to enter the school is limited to the night of the meeting between the hours of 7PM & 10PM under the direction of the school staff.
Permission from the school staff is required to enter the school at any other time.

DVESS 2005 Officers & Positions

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Librarian
Open

President's Message by Ann Benson

A warm welcome to new members and greetings to all the rest of you! The clock has been ticking and soon my term as your President will be ending. I would like to see DVESS continue under leadership that is both strong with the dedication of experienced members and renewed with the enthusiasm of newer members.

The November meeting is one of the most exciting of the year, regardless of the Program, because Nominations will be made for the new slate of officers to be elected in December. Your interest brings you to DVESS, and your talents come along with you. I encourage you to share both with your club. Strengthen us, rejuvenate us, make us more interesting by either nominating yourself for a position on the Board or by volunteering to share your particular interest in some way. Our prime need is for a Recording Secretary to take minutes at the meetings and relay them to the newsletter editor. We could also use an "Each One Teach One" coordinator. Otherwise, ask yourself what you would like to see different and "make it happen."

It is my understanding that the Paleo Bill has been passed by the Senate and has been sent to the House. As far as I know, a number has yet to be assigned, but it will most likely be in the "Resources" committee. We need to pay close attention to this bill since its passage will greatly affect us.

I have a question for you fossil enthusiasts and computer wizards: while researching stromatolites, I was struck by what I saw in the first photo in this link: http://www.fossilmall.com/Science/About_Stromatolite.htm. Stromatolites are structures created by cyanobacteria – the first living organisms on our planet. If you turn this photo from horizontal to vertical, putting the right side at the top, you'll see what I mean. I have seen this photo before, and thought it was one of those "made up" photos you get with "pass along" emails. Not being someone who takes anything at face value, I have tried to verify whether this is actually a photo of a stromatolite reef by looking up stromatolite reef images in Google – this particular picture did not come up; but if this is actually a photograph associated with a biological lifeform 3.9 billion years old, we're going to have to rethink a few things. So my question to you is: can you identify the what this picture actually represents and/or its source. Reply to me at SeleniteQueen@comcast.net.

See you November 9!

October 12, 2005 General Meeting Minutes

by Grant Elliott, Acting Recording Secretary for Life

Ann Benson, President gavelled the meeting to order at 7:54pm. Present in addition to Ann were Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Program Chair, Chuck O'Loughlin- Newsletter Editor/Corresponding Secretary/Membership Chair/Assistant Field Trips Coordinator, Terry Wilson- Website Coordinator, Len Morgan- Sage, and Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary.

Mil LeCompte dazzled the Junior Rockhounds with large boxes filled with soil separated by a grid system. The "JR's" dug for "Dinosaur remains" in these grid areas, hampered by "junk" one might encounter in a real dig. After the "Dino bones" were extracted, the "JR's" had to piece the disparate parts together to find the species they had discovered. A very clever exercise that I am certain was appreciated by the youngsters.

Our "lame duck" President turned the meeting over to Gary, who introduced our speaker, Bryan Clark. Bryan is a former professional paleontologist, who related his experiences digging vertebrate dinosaur fossils in the Badlands of South Dakota and Montana. His presentation was fascinating; as were the specimens he brought to show us.

The two calcite door prizes were won by David Anderson and Bob Bartos. Bob immediately "re-gifted" his specimen to Emily Myers, one of our young guests.

Gary made the motion to accept last month's meeting minutes and Ann seconded that motion.

TREASURER: All AOK.

PROGRAMS: Lou Detofsky will speak on Costa Rica in November. Next two month's meetings will be held at Evergreen Avenue School (Cost- \$20.00 per meeting). A more appropriate venue is in the offing.

MEMBERSHIP: Three new members signed up.

FIELD TRIPS: 10/15/05 Sterling Hill Night dig. 12/4/05 Aurora, North Carolina.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussed upcoming elections. It appears the curse of the Black Death is associated with anyone wanting to throw their fedora into the ring.

The 10/19/05 Executive Board meeting will be at Gary's house. Grant made the motion and was seconded by Ann to close the meeting. Meeting concluded at 10pm.

Junior Rockhound News by Gerald Feigin

After missing the last two meetings both Jonathan and I are anxious to join with you for the November meeting and Junior Program. I am planning on presenting a program on glaciers and the minerals that are related to those enormous rivers of ice. Thank to Mel LaCompte for substituting at the October meeting.

Programs by Gary Weinstein

Come out and enjoy a wonderful presentation by our esteemed member and Vice President, Dr. Louis Detofsky, as he regales us with the flora and fauna of his trip to Costa Rica. He may even include some geology and minerals, just for us. See him hop around the room and maybe even on the table.

Watch as his enthusiastic nature excites the group into a frenzy. **FIELD TRIP !!!!**

Bring your friends and neighbors, co-workers and spouses, for an entertaining and informative program sure to please. And best of all....it's FREE.

December's meeting program will be our annual elections and holiday gift exchange and party. I can not stress the importance of the membership participating in the election process. It is extremely difficult to have effective club leadership if only the megalomaniacs, hungry for power or those who hope to gain financially run for office or for that matter bother to vote in the elections. While we are on the subject of the December meeting, this would be a good time to mention that many inexpensive gift items perfect for the Holiday Gift exchange are available at Gary Gem and Gnome Garden. Conveniently located in the Saw Mill Shopping Center, Rt. 70, Cherry Hill, NJ, Gary's Gem & Gnome Garden is now offering extended shopping hours for the holiday season. Be sure to stop by and see our exciting new line up of Holiday Gnomes (Elves) in the new gnome section (behind the black curtain at the back of the store).

Club News by Gary Weinstein

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, CLUB ELECTIONS ARE A MONTH AWAY!

So far we have a reluctant nomination for President, four candidates for Vice President, yours truly for Treasurer, again, and no one who wishes to run for Secretary.

We need someone to come forth and volunteer to help out for the upcoming year (or more).

DO YOU OWN A COMPUTER? DO YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS? CAN YOU TYPE? COULD YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS PER MONTH FOR YOUR CLUB? Benefits include, Food, viewing other collections, food, and camaraderie with fellow officers and did I mention, FOOD. No experience required.

NEW MEETING LOCATION FOUND FOR SPRING 2006!

Rowan Professor Louis Detofsky has secured a new meeting place for the club at Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ. Room 236 in Westby Hall will be our new home for at least the spring of 2006. When Rowan makes their summer and fall schedules, we will determine if we will be able to continue meeting there through the summer and fall. We will continue to meet on the same night and time as usual. There is ample parking right in front, though we should post a sign in our windows identifying us as DVESS. It is right off of Rt. 322 and Lou says it is a good room. The only drawback he mentioned is that there are a few steps to go up to the front door.

Field Trips by Chuck O'Loughlin (for additional information or to sign up for any field trips contact me at 856-663-1383 or editor@dvess.org)

November's Field trip has been cancelled.

December 4, 2005 fossil collecting at the PCS Phosphate open mine in Aurora, NC. DVESS was very fortunate to get 10 slots for the fall collecting season. As Gary has not yet delivered the mail to me, I don't know if we have filled all 10 slots. If you are interested but did not send in a post card, please see me at the November meeting or call or e-mail me starting on November 10. I will notify the luck persons asap so that we can begin making travel plans.

December 11, 2005 DVESS day at Sterling Hill Mining Museum 10AM – 4PM. The Clubs membership in the Sterling Hill Mining Museum allows us an annual tour of the mine and museum and a day of collecting. We will be doing the mine tour first this year, to make sure that you don't miss the mine tour, arrive by 10AM. The museum has recently renovated the tower where the rail cars were filled with ore bound for the smelter in Palmerton, PA and the conveyor bridge from the crushers on the top of the hill to the tower and it is possible that the tour this year will include those areas. Collecting in the quarries and mine run area is available following the tour for anyone who is interested.

Field Trip Report by Chuck O'Loughlin

October 15, 2005 an afternoon and evening in Ogdensburg, NJ area. Saturday afternoon I waited at the appointed time at the Sterling Hill Mine Museum parking lot, but alas, no one came. When I was just about to give up along came DVESS member, Ron Towers, who had come all the way from Maryland. Even though he had come for other reasons, I dragged him to the top of Sparta Mountain to view and explore the old mine workings and dumps. We returned to the Sterling Hill Mine in time to participate in the night collecting. It was my first experience in Sterling Hill at night and WOW is the only word I can think of that even begins to describe the evening. Club member and Trotter field trip coordinator, Jeff Winkler, was on hand and showed me hot collecting spots where I was able to collect some excellent specimens of norgberdite, diopside and sphalerite. Wollastonite was found on the saddle and hydrozincite was in abundance. Jeff Winkler mentioned that he had gotten the okay for Trotter 2006. So keep checking your DVESScapades for news concerning that upcoming field trip.

October 30, 2005 exploring the Wissahickon Valley, Philadelphia, PA. It was a beautiful day for a walk in the park. The Mark, Mathew, Mike, Daniel and David Anderson joined me for a self guided geologic tour of the Wissahickon Valley. We were able to locate and identify the Wissahickon formation composed of schist and quartzite, a serpentine

(phylite) contact zone and a granodioritic dike intruding the Wissahickon formation. We were able to collect small samples of the garnets abundant in the schist and talc and magnetite crystals (1-2 cm) in the serpentine contact zone.

Calendar of Shows and Events

 compiled by Chuck O'Loughlin from various sources

Nov. 5-6, Media, PA – Friends of Mineralogy PA Chapter. Fall Symposium “Classic Eastern Localities II” Delaware County Institute of Science, 11 Veterans Square. Arnold Mogel, 15 Oak Rd, Schuylkill Haven, PA pioche@losch.net

Nov. 5-6, Exton, PA - Tuscarora Lapidary Society. 36th Annual Gemarama. CFS School at Church Farm, Business Rte. 30 & Rte. 202. 5th, 10-6; 6th, 10-5. Nancy Marks, 570-342-1355, www.lapidary.org.

Nov. 18-20, Pittsburgh, PA - Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Gem and Mineral Show. 412-622-3131, www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh/minerals/gemshow.

Nov. 19-20, Montvale, NJ - 2005 Pascack Show. 15th Annual Show. Pascack Hills High School, Grand Ave. & Spring Valley Rd. 19th, 10-5; 20th, 10-4. 201-262-2726, somthg@bellatlantic.net.

January 28, 2006, New Brunswick, NJ – Rutgers Geology Museum’s Annual Open House and Mineral Sale. Scott Hall and Geologic Hall, College Ave Campus, 9-4, 973-932-7243 or rwselden@rci.rutgers.edu

Additional shows and events are listed on the Eastern Federations Web site www.afms/efmls

Show Report

 by Chuck O'Loughlin

Ultraviolet Fluorescent Mineral Show hosted by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks took place Saturday October 29, 2005. The show is the largest show in the USA devoted exclusively to fluorescent minerals and what luck it took place right in our backyard in Fairless Hill, PA. Alternating periods of light and darkness allowed vendors to display their fluorescent minerals under both white light and ultraviolet light conditions. Fluorescent minerals from around the world and covering the entire color spectrum were on display and available for purchase. Several of our favorite vendors were on hand, Fred Liguori, Karenne Snow (with fluorescent sand, of course) and Gary Weinstein of Gary’s Gem Garden with his “rainbow of fluorescing mineral”.

We were fortunate to get an interview with Mr. Weinstein’s sales associate during the show.

DVESScapades – What it like to be a part of the largest fluorescent minerals only show?

Associate – Gary duped me. When he asked me to help him with Ultraviolet, I thought we would be doing something fun.

DVESScapades – It is probable better if we don’t explore what you think you were volunteering for. Perhaps you could tell us what its like to set up for a big show like this?

Associate – It was hell. You know how obsessive Gary can be? He insisted on setting up his minerals by the colors of the rainbow. I don’t even know what colors are in the rainbow, let alone the order they are in. And do you know that when you shine one of those ultraviolet lights on those rocks they change colors. Well, Gary wanted them ordered by their fluorescing color, which you can only tell when its dark and when you turn on the lights I was having trouble remembering what rock was what color. My head hurts.

DVESScapades - Well, now that the set up is over, hopefully you are enjoying yourself?

Associate – Nothing could be further from the truth. There is nothing to look at here. At a normal show you can usually count on a couple of vendors having fossils or meteorites to look at. This is all pretty much the same junk and worse yet, every time they turn off the lights and you think you can get in a little nap, the clientele come around and start bothering you with silly questions, like “what kind of rock is this mister?” Of course customer service is important so I typically respond “it’s a glow in the dark rock you little imp now get out of here unless your buying”.

DVESScapades – Has that line been working?

Associate – Like a charm. I have barely had to do anything since we set up. Which is good because do you know how hard it is to make change in the dark?

DVESScapades – I am afraid to ask. But before you answer that could you comment on how the sales have been today?

Associate – I think they have been okay, but I am sure Gary will complain. Like I said before we are selling the same rocks that everyone else is selling, so it is difficult to stand out in the dark. I know we could have done much better if we had slapped some fluorescent paint on some fossils and meteorites and sold that stuff. It is a shame that the shipment of fluorescent gnomes was delayed. No body else here has gnomes for sale. We would have cleaned up.

DVESScapades – I see that they are getting ready to turn off the lights again. Thank you for taking the time to give us an inside look at what it is like to be on the vendor's side of the table.

Banquet Report by Chuck O'Loughlin

October 16, found the DVESS club gathered at the Winslow Family Dinner and Restaurant for the annual banquet. A good crowd of approximately 22 people were in attendance to share an afternoon of fun, food and good company. Our guest speaker was Ray Kucklinca, who did a beautiful multi media presentation titled "Rockin' Around the World", a chronicle of his travels and rock collecting trips to several global sites.

Special thanks to Ray for the entertainment, Ann Benson for making the arrangements, Gary Weinstein for setting up the auctions and door prizes, Fred and Ebba Liguori for the wonderful items donated for the auction and to everyone else who contributed to making the day a success.

Articles & Items of Interest

Major Prehistoric Plant Bed Found at Rocky Ridge Fossil Site by Richard D. L. Fulton, *On-site Paleontologist*, richard_fulton@myway.com

ROCKY RIDGE, FREDERICK COUNTY, MD – Paleontologists working at a Rocky Ridge, Frederick County, Maryland, fossil site discovered a bed of 200 million year old plants September 4, representing the largest find of its kind in the history of the state.

On-site Paleontologist Richard Fulton Biglerville, Pennsylvania, discovered the plant bed after months of effort. Fulton said, "It was an exciting moment. Some of the slabs are covered with leaves. We had found traces of a plant bed in the form of leaves impressed in shale lying loose along a creek. It literally took months to trace those bits of evidence back to the source bed."

Project Field Assistant Cathe Curtis, Biglerville, Pennsylvania, said, "The flora being recovered appears to have been dominated by ancestral Ginkgophyta, but other ancient plants are being found as well."

The Ginkgos somehow survived the Age of Dinosaurs, but are only found only in the Orient today, although they are commonly used as an ornamental tree throughout the world. The Ginkgos have changed little since they first appeared 200 million years ago, and are considered a "living fossil" by many botanists (scientists who study plants).

The layer containing the fossil plants was found about ten feet below layers of mud-cracked shale and a layer pummeled with raindrop impressions. The plant bed appears to be alongside of the remains of a stream channel preserved at the site. "In some cases, the slabs of shale being removed are covered with leaves, but bark and even unidentified plant leaves are being collected as well at this time," Curtis, who oversees most of the actual removal of specimens, said, adding, "We have literally found a prehistoric oasis."

Background

During the Late Triassic Period, some 200 million years ago, much of the world was in a state of extreme aridness (dryness).

The Mid-Atlantic was much like the Rift Valley in Africa, and wet seasons were few, producing a near desert-like condition. There was little relief to be had from any nearby ocean. The Atlantic Ocean did not even exist at the time. Fossils being recovered are part of an on-going exploration of the prehistoric record preserved in shale beds located on the 145-acre, Rocky Ridge, Maryland, Buck Forest Farm, owned by John and Linda Ballenger.

The geology team working the site has been involved in the excavations at the Rocky Ridge farm since March. Almost all of the fossils recovered to date are new to Maryland geology. Key specimens will ultimately be sent to the Smithsonian Institute.

The site made news in March when the first 200-million year old vertebrate tracks found in Maryland in more than a century surfaced at the site.

To date, the site has produced rare reptile skin impressions and hundreds of reptile, millipede, beetle and cricket tracks, as well as fish remains. A possible dinosaur-bearing bed will be excavated in Fall.

The discovery of the windfall of Triassic fossils at the farm was essentially triggered by a note left for Linda Ballenger by the late Maryland Geologic Survey (MGS) geologist John Edwards in 1994, stating he may have found tracks on their property while doing a survey, but wasn't sure.

During March, 2005, Linda Ballenger was encouraged by a friend in England to report the suspect fossils to the newspaper. Fulton, the news editor of *The Emmitsburg Dispatch*, also happened to be a published paleontologist, followed up on the tip, and verified that the fossils were, in fact, tracks left by prehistoric reptiles.

Since then, excavations headed-up by Fulton and Curtis have revealed a variety of plants and animals that lived in the area 200 million years ago.

Sea World by Ann Benson

What can you catch if you bait a line with common squid about 10 inches long and a bag of crushed shrimp as an odor lure, and send it to a depth of about 3500 feet? Hint: think "largest invertebrate on this planet."

Japanese scientists recently released the first-ever images of a giant squid living in the North Pacific Ocean.

The scientists used automated cameras attached to fishing lines to snap more than 500 images of the massive cephalopod before it broke free after snagging itself on a hook. They also recovered one of the giant squid's two longest tentacles, which were severed during its struggle. The photo sequence, taken off Japan's Ogasawara Islands in September 2004, shows the squid homing in on the baited line and enveloping it in "a ball of tentacles."

This is the first-ever successful attempt to observe a live giant squid in the wild. Tsunemi Kubodera of the National Science Museum in Tokyo and Kyoichi Mori of the Ogasawara Whale Watching Association reported their observations in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. (*Proceedings B* welcomes papers of high quality in all aspects of biology. Currently, it is particularly strong in ecology in the widest sense, and behavioral and evolutionary biology.

Proceedings A, publishes refereed research papers in the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences.) View the Royal Society's webpage: <http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/proceedingsb.shtml> read the article at:

http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/proc_bio_content/pdf/RSPB20053158.pdf

OTHER INTERESTING WEBSITES:

cephalopod fossils and history: <http://www.tonmo.com/science/fossils/fossilsjump.php>

ammonites: <http://www.tonmo.com/science/public/ammonites.php>

belemnites: <http://www.tonmo.com/science/public/belemnites.php>

nautiloids (several mentions of trilobites): <http://www.tonmo.com/science/fossils/nautiloids.php>

virtual Silurian reef - <http://www.mpm.edu/reef/intro.html>

The Paleontology Portal - http://www.paleoportal.org/footer_pages/about_the_site.php

Membership by Chuck O'Loughlin, Membership Chair

Now is a great time to renew your membership in the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society for 2006 . Please complete the membership application bellow and return it or complete an on line application at www.dvess.org Payment can be made on line or by mail or in person at a regular scheduled meeting.

DVESS is a non-profit organization for people of all ages who share an interest in fossils, minerals, lapidary, geology and the earth sciences. Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through June. Meetings start at 7:30 PM with socializing and a Junior Rockhound lesson, followed by the general meeting at 8:00 PM.

Membership Application

<u>Membership Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Basic Membership	_____	\$15.00	_____
Senior Membership (65+)	_____	\$10.00	_____
Additional Members	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Silver Membership	_____	\$50.00	_____
Gold Membership	_____	\$75.00	_____
Platinum Membership	_____	\$100.00	_____

Total _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Child: _____ **Age:** _____

Child: _____ **Age:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Return the completed application at the meeting or by mail to DVESS, PO Box 372, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. Please make your check payable to DVESS. Thank you for your continuing support.

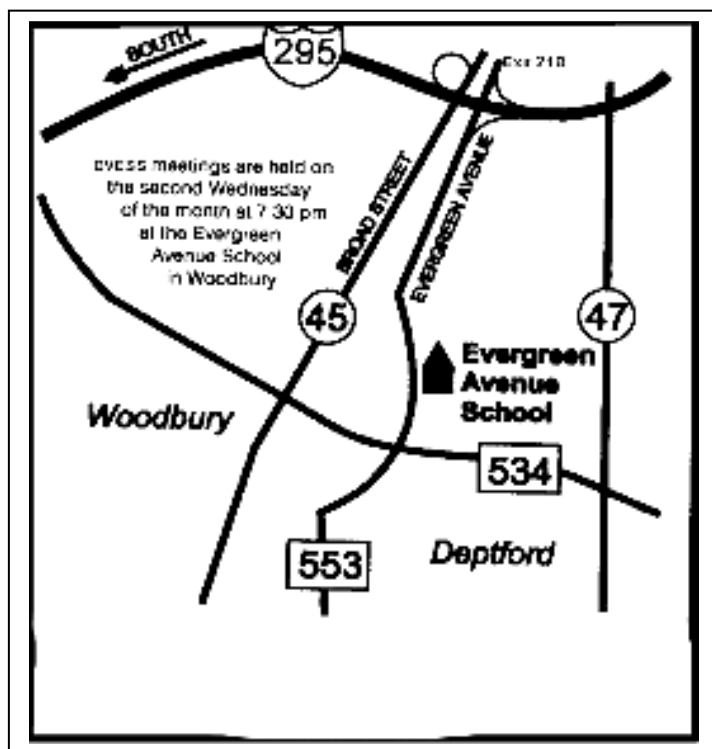
DVESScapades

The Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Earth Science Society
PO Box 372
Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052



DVESScapades

November 2005



This Month's Meeting:

November 9, 2005

Main Program

Flora, fauna and geology of Costa Rica

Junior Rockhounds

Glaciers and related mineral deposits