

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



April 2016

CELEBRATING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Next Meeting: April 13th

7:00 pm Junior Rockhounds class and adult social hour

8:00 pm Program: **Mr. Bob Thompson, of the Cumberland Co. Native American Museum,** will engage us with tales of the area's native culture.

In **May** we can look forward to Alan Benson who will give a presentation on the Fluorite from the Rogerly Mine in England.

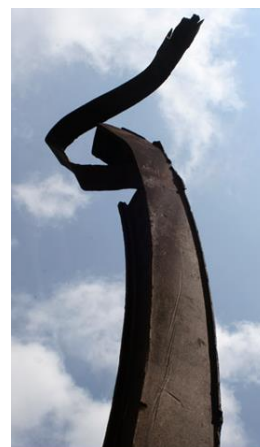
**Meeting location: Education Bldg. behind Centenary United Methodist Church,
149 South White Horse Pike, Berlin NJ 08009**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by AnnLynne Benson

STERLING HILL SUPER DIG – APRIL 23 – rain or shine!! 9 am – 11 pm. We hope you'll be trekking on up to 30 Plant St., Ogdensburg, NJ 07439. Nearly 100 GlowHounds aged 8 to 78 are already registered! We have a new crew, and new activities have been added - SUPER SPECIMENS will be for sale adjacent to the Registration tent. Register to attend at www.SuperDig.com and remember to READ each TripLetter. SAFETY GLASSES and WORK BOOTS ARE REQUIRED IN THE FIELD; gloves are recommended. Hard hats are REQUIRED on the tours. You can read Eastern Federation Safety Guidelines at http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyEFMLS.htm. VOLUNTEERS are still needed – to trade some of your collecting time for a volunteer work slot contact Mel 609-458-7763.

Before heading out to the Field, take a minute to walk straight across the handicap parking lot from the Gift Shop door and spend a few minutes at the Twin Towers memorial. Sterling Hill Mining Museum was the recipient of the first steel beam legally removed from the World Trade Center site for purposes of establishing a public memorial dedicated to the people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The scorched and twisted two-ton steel beam is 20 feet high.



PROTECTING YOUR HANDS AT THE SUPER DIG - For the hand tasks we do frequently, our hands stay well exercised; for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken. Without advance exercise, if you use a rock hammer too much, your fingers will freeze in the curl of the hammer handle and when you pull the hammer from your hand, the fingers will stay frozen in the curl – not good! Prevent this by changing activity and hand/finger position frequently during the day. For two reasons DO NOT hold a rock in one hand and a rock hammer in the other hand, and strike the rock. First, the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand; then, think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. Be cautious also of the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel – it's a set-up for injury. Consider investing in a chisel-holding device or hammer guard before heading out to the fluorescent Field of Dreams.

There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands; at the Dig we have only one, very basic type of glove for sale, and it's one-size-fits-most. Watch out for too many repetitive movements and bring along some hand lotion – handling minerals will suck the moisture right out of your hands! With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that's good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please be safe, stay safe, and give yourself a hand for a job well done.

Thank you Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair for your inspiration on this matter. EFMLS News, Vol 53, Number 5, March 2016

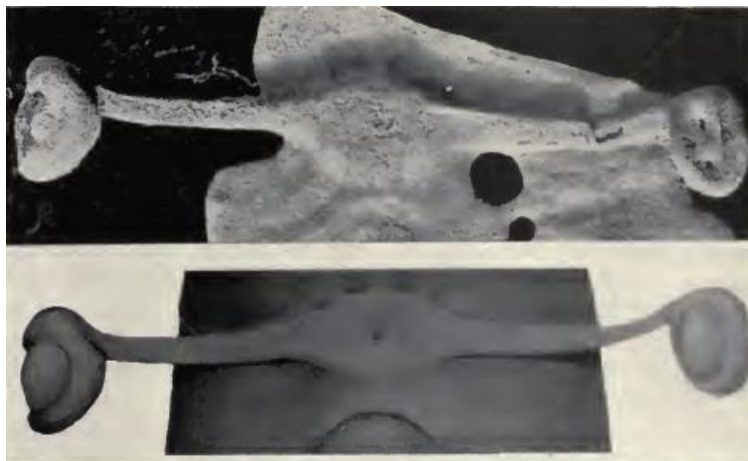
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE AMATEUR FOSSIL COLLECTOR who went “fishing” and caught this:

We're not making this up, folks. He found a couple of them - thousands actually.

Officially known as *Tullimonstrum gregarium*, and colloquially known as the Tully Monster, it is named after Francis Tully, who came across it in 1958 in coal mining pits in northeastern Illinois where it had lived in shallow tropical coastal waters of muddy estuaries during the Pennsylvanian geological period, about 300 million years ago. The soft-bodied vertebrate is similar to a lamprey but until now has been difficult to fit into any known major animal group. The largest fossil stretched to only a foot long but was indeed a vertebrate because it had a rudimentary spinal cord.



Were its eyes actually balanced like barbells on the top of its body? Oh yes, they were. here's a picture of the eye stalks preserved in pyrite (top) and a reconstruction based on the actual specimen (bottom).



From Johnson and Richardson, 1969.

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/17/us/tully-monster-mystery-irpt/index.html>
<http://www.wired.com/2011/01/tullys-mystery-monster/>

TICKETS for the American Federation Endowment Fund drawing are \$5.00 a piece or \$20.00 for five. Prizes are mineral, fossil and lapidary pieces valued from \$25 (a tigers eye gem tree) to \$250 (a soapstone carving or a black tourmaline). For a complete list go to <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/> and click on EFMLS Newsletters (March edition). See Ann to purchase tickets. I have won and you can, too.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY is celebrating its 250th Anniversary with a special event “History of the Geology Museum” at 8 pm on Wednesday May 4th, 2016 at the Rutgers Geology Museum in New Brunswick. Stay afterward for a reception; come early for Ice Age Late Night from 4 to 8 pm featuring the Historic Mastodon skeleton. Both events are free and open to everyone. RSVP at <https://geologymuseum.rutgers.edu/museum-events/rsvp> or send an email to museum@rci.rutgers.edu. Also, plan on attending the 2016 Rutgers Day Festivities on Saturday April 30th, 2016; activities will be held at the Geology Museum and all around campus. More info is available at <http://rutgersday.rutgers.edu/>.

WILDACRES has two dynamite sessions for 2016. The first, May 9 – 15, features Helen Serras-Herman as our “speaker in residence.” Helen is a world renowned glyptographer (gem stone carver). She’ll present several programs during the session which are sure to be of interest to everyone. Take a look at examples of Helen’s amazing work on her website www.gemartcenter.com. The second session, September 5 – 11, will feature Alfredo Petrov as the “speaker in residence.” Alfredo has travelled the world and is extremely knowledgeable about minerals. Most recently, he was honored by having a new mineral, Alfredopetrovite, named after him. His photographs and tales about his travels are amazing. Tuition for the entire week is \$400 per person including room and board, gratuity for the Retreat employees, and instruction given by our outstanding cadre of teachers. The only extra charge is for the materials. To see what classes are available go to efmls-wildacres.org. This all takes place on top of a mountain in picturesque Little Switzerland, NC.

DVESS has members who live close enough to attend meetings and members in the far-flung reaches of the U.S.A. We love you all. In today’s electronic age, you don’t have to be “down the street” to “be a part of” or to participate. If you have some social media skills, please help us reach more Rockhounds and inform them of our club and our Super Dig. A couple of years ago we had 400 come out for the Dig - folks from just about every state, from England, Canada and other countries. One very lovely lady last year was speaking to me *in French*; I didn’t understand a word she said, but she was having a good time. We want you to enjoy this special opportunity to collect fluorescents and fellowship with other GlowHounds. Article 3, Section 1 of our Constitution states that our purpose is “to promote interest in, and knowledge of, the Earth Sciences and to establish fellowship with, and fraternity for, our members.” Many volunteers work long hours to make this Dig possible for you – and we’re glad to do it! So join us for a meeting in Berlin, NJ, join us for the SuperDig, or just join us for coffee and to share your experiences. We look forward to seeing you!!

AnnLynne Benson
President

Field Trips

There is a possibility that there might be a trip to Big Brook/Raminissin Creek for Sharks Teeth and Bellemnites. We might be joining up with the DVPS group.

Super Dig at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Saturday April 23rd, collecting from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. Mine tours, tunnel tours all day and night.

We need members to help out throughout the day. If you help for two plus hours you get the entrance fee waived. If you put in most of the day you get to go to our annual banquet for free. Contact Mel or Mark if you are interested in helping out.



Fossil fern trip on May 7th to places other than St. Claire. Details and sign up at this month's meeting.

Mark Leipert, Field Trip Chair

News

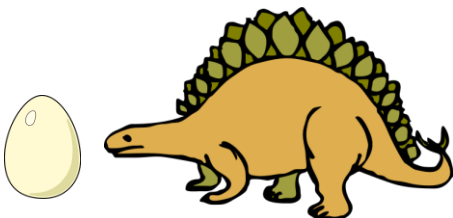
Tully monster, Illinois' great fossil mystery, solved

This Mazon Creek fossil has now been identified as a primitive fish similar to lampreys.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/ct-tully-monster-ent-0317-20160316-column.html>

The 4 Coolest Things Paleontologists Have Discovered About Dinosaur Eggs

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/shaenamontanari/2016/03/26/the-4-coolest-things-paleontologists-have-discovered-about-dinosaur-eggs/#3d20251c7e9b>



Field Trip Photos - Odessa, DE plus side trip to C & D Canal

by Susan Moore



Way out there in a cornfield in Odessa, there are people hunting for petrified wood.

Mark found a couple of nice pieces!





And then off to the C & D Canal spoil piles.



Belemnites, brachiopods, exogyra, and.... a bit of snow.

Websites

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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

Philadelphia Mineralogical Society

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

Delaware Mineralogical Society

<http://www.delminsociety.net/>



Quotes of the Month

There is in them a softer fire than the ruby, there is the brilliant purple of the amethyst, and the sea green of the emerald - all shining together in incredible union. Some by their splendor rival the colors of the painters, others the flame of burning sulphur or of fire quickened by oil. - *Pliny, about the opal*

As though pure white snow flashed and sparkled with the color of bright ruddy wine, and was overcome by this radiance. - *Author unknown, about opal*

Shows and Events

April



Sterling Hill Super Dig: April 23rd, 9 am to 11 pm. Mine tours, historic Trotter Tunnel, Upper Mine and Mill, Blackout Tour, nighttime illumination of the famous "Fluorescent Wall" in the Fill Quarry, and mineral collecting in all 3 collection areas on the property. \$20 per person, collecting fee \$1.50 per pound. <http://superdig.com/>

44th Annual N.J. Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show with outdoor swap. April 23rd 9 am - 5:30 pm, swap opens at 8:00 am; April 24th, 10 am - 5 pm, swap opens at 9:00 am. Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave., Franklin, N.J. 07416. Donation: \$6.00 per person, children under 14 free with paying adult.

May

South Penn Rock Swap & Sale --SPRING SWAP--Saturday, May 14, 2016 8 am to 3 pm. South Mountain Fairgrounds West of Arendtsville, PA on Route 234. For GPS, use address: 615 Narrows Road, Biglerville, PA 17307. General admissions: \$1.00/person. Sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania and Franklin County Rock & Mineral Clubs. Contact: tsmith1012@comcast.net

46th Annual "World of Gems & Minerals - May 16-17, sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Rt 61, Leesport, PA

June

2016 Spring Mineralfest: Saturday, 4 June 2016, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, Pennsylvania. One hundred tables with minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, crystals and geodes. Mineralfest is the biannual mineral, fossil, and gem show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association.

Free parking. A family-oriented event - younger attendees encouraged. Adult admission only \$2.00; Free admission and mineral specimens for children under 12. <http://mineralfest.com/>



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

Sponsoring memberships are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January.

Regular Membership:

\$20.00 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: (each additional family member - \$5.00)

"Silver" \$50.00 for 1st family member – receive a Geode Specimen

"Gold" \$75.00 for 1st family member – receive Mineral Specimen

"Platinum" \$100.00 for 1st family member – receive Premium Specimen

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Information

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 in, knowledge of, and the development of skills in the "earth sciences." These interests include mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, archeology, and local preservation.
- supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains close contact with those in the academic field.
- is a member club of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (<http://www.AmFed.org/EFMLS>)

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society Inc. (DVESS)

P.O. Box 372

Maple Shade, New Jersey 08052

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



To submit an article or photos for publication in the DVESScapades, contact the Newsletter Editor at aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com.

