

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



April 2021

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14th



7:00 pm social hour

8:00 pm Program: **via Zoom** - Dr. Bruce Geller will present A Brief Mining History of Colorado – much more than you think!

Many people think that Colorado was America's largest gold or silver producer, which was true at various times, yet Colorado is far more important for mining other commodities that you are probably much less familiar with. This talk will discuss Colorado's "Gold Rush," as well as silver, and a few dozen other commodities with recorded production, from ancient to modern times. Certain localities you have probably heard of, while many may be new to you. Some attention will be given to the innovations needed for the growth of Colorado mining, the mineralogy of several of these commodities, and chances for future production of "green energy" materials. These are some of the topics to be discussed during this talk.

Upcoming - In May we have something a little different; we will have someone from the boutique shop "Azenia" to talk to us about the "Metaphysical Properties of Crystals."

No regular, in-person meetings until further notice

President's Message

Spring is finally here. After being home bound for a year with little or no human contact, everyone is going stir crazy. We may be able to start meeting in person with some social distancing and mask wearing, possibly as early as July. We are going to slowly start taking trips as many things are still closed or restricted in numbers. I'm glad to see the temperatures slowly creep up into the mid-60s to mid-70s. You should still wear masks and socially distance and still have a good time collecting fossils or minerals.

The Centenary United Methodist church where we meet is not allowing any outside organizations to resume regular gatherings at this time. Everything will continue being on hold this year until possibly mid-to-late June and the number of new COVID cases drops dramatically. And even then we will still need to socially distance and wear face masks.

In the meantime, continue taking field trips to your basement, cleanup your dust covered rocks and fossils, discover something you've probably had for years hiding away in your closet, garage or secret stash area.

Guest Zoom Speakers: I am trying to continue to bring interesting speakers into our zoom meeting sessions. Last month we had Dr. Steve Peters who gave us a talk about "The Geology of Afghanistan." This month, on April 14th, we'll have Dr. Bruce Geller who will be talking about his experiences with "Gold Mining in Colorado." You can read his biography later in this newsletter. In May we have something a little different, we have someone from the boutique shop "Azonia" to talk to us about the "Metaphysical Properties of Crystals." I am also trying to continue the line-up of interesting speakers through the summer.

Field Trips: Sunday, April 25th Beltzville State Park; we will be leaving PATCO's Woodcrest Station parking lot 8A at 8:00. Devonian marine fossils from the Mahantango Formation. You can find brachiopods, crinoids, bryozoans, coral and trilobites. You will need hiking boots/shoes, geology hammer/brick layer's hammer, stone chisel, safety glasses, containers to put fossils in and newspaper to wrap up your specimens. Contact me by April 18th if you are planning on attending. We are planning to be back in the area around 6:00 pm.



In order to participate in any DVESS field trip, you will need to comply with CDC Covid-19 precautions, including mask use and social distancing.

The “Cape Atlantic Club Mineral Show & Sale”: Cape Atlantic Rock Club will be holding its mineral sale/show on May 15th and 16th from 9 to 5 both days. It will be held at 2641 Cologne Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ.

Water Fest Event at Scotland Run Park, Sunday June 6th: Our club participated for the first time in 2019. It was a lot of fun. Last year I participated on behalf of the club during the pandemic. Many people came out to the event while practicing social distancing and wearing masks. I am looking for volunteers to help me out with this event. Email me to sign-up at mark.leipert@yahoo.com.

Super Diggg 2021, Franklin Mineral Museum, postponed until fall of 2021. Details TBD at a later date.

Mark Leipert, President

Dr. Bruce Geller

A native of Philadelphia, Bruce holds B.S., M.A., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees in geology and has worked in the mineral industry since 1981 as an explorationist, research consultant, journalist, business manager, consulting mineralogist, professor,

technical editor, and was the Museum Director at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum for over 10 years. He has authored many professional publications on minerals, particularly tellurides.



Events

Philadelphia Mineralogical Society 2021 Mineral Treasures Show (outdoor)

Saturday, May 8, 10 am to 6 pm

Location: Picnic Grove at St. Michael Byzantine Church, 203 Jacob St., Mont Clare, PA 19453.

Admission \$5 adult; under 13 and all scouts in uniform free

Minerals, gems, and fossils for sale, with vendors under the Pavilion and on the grounds

Free parking

Kids' activities & free mineral specimens

Snack bar; Picnic tables available - bring your own picnic

Indoor bathroom facilities

Information: www.phillyrocks.org.

Contact: Karenne Snow, mineral.fossils.rocks@gmail.com



1st Annual South Jersey Summer Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show

Date: June 12, 2021

Location: 1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08054

Show Times: Saturday (6/12/21) 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Outdoor Only)

*Rain Date: Sunday (6/13/21) 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (Outdoor Only)

Website: www.sjmineralshow.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjmineralshow

WILDACRES SPRING SESSION CANCELLED

The Wildacres Workshop Committee has regrettably announced that the spring session of Wildacres (May 17-23) has been cancelled due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID virus.

The fall session (September 6-12) has not been cancelled. As soon as we have more information about the fall session, we will notify you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Weinberger, Chairman (cscrystals2@gmail.com); Pam Bryant, Director (pjbryant6@juno.com) or Suzie Milligan, Registrar (smilligan@stny.it).

Steve Weinberger, Chairman

State Gem Quiz

Match states to their official gem stones - see answers below

Arkansas	amethyst
California	benitoite
Florida	blue topaz
Idaho	chlorastrolite
Michigan	diamond
Montana	moonstone
Oregon	sapphire
South Carolina	star garnet
Texas	sunstone



News

A meteorite exploded in the air above Antarctica 430,000 years ago

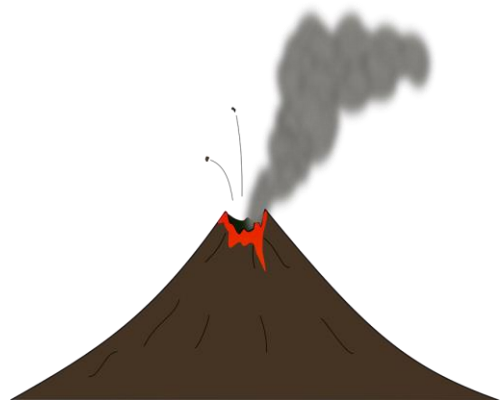
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/31/world/meteorite-explosion-antarctica-scn/index.html>

NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission flies by asteroid Bennu one final time

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/07/world/nasa-osiris-rex-asteroid-bennu-final-flyby-scn/index.html>

Iceland volcano unleashes third lava stream

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-iceland-volcano-unleashes-lava-stream.html>



Quote of the Month:

“Science, my boy, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth.” — **Jules Verne, Journey to the Center of the Earth**

State Gem Quiz - answers

Arkansas	diamond
California	benitoite
Florida	moonstone
Idaho	star garnet
Michigan	chlorastrolite
Montana	sapphire
Oregon	sunstone
South Carolina	amethyst
Texas	blue topaz



Interesting fact - NJ, PA, and DE do not have official state gem stones!

DVESS Directory for 2021

Officers

President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103

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Membership: James Brennan

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Website: www.DVESS.org

Facebook: [DVESSNJ](#) – Amy Simpson



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

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

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)

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society

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

