

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



April 2025



This Meeting: Wednesday, April 9th. Derek Yoost will present "Who Dung It" The Science of Fossil Coprolites.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 14th.

Meeting location: Atco Senior Center, 474 E. Atlantic Ave, Waterford, NJ.

President's Message

Hi Fine Folks!

Sometimes I feel as though I'm sending the same messages month after month but hey what's a guy to do when he doesn't have a degree in creative writing? My degree is in Computer Sciences. So you get what you get.

Looks like spring is here, mowers and leaf blower season is also here. Potential dig season is also here. Mark will fill us in on that at the meeting.

Dr. Kelden Pehr delivered a nice presentation on the topic of Long-Lived Carbon: Using Organic Geochemistry to Study Molecular Fossils, Past Environments and More. My chemistry knowledge is almost fifty years old, so some of that was above my head. I'm just happy there wasn't a test!

It's April and if you haven't paid for your membership, now is a good time! Either pay Jim in person at the meeting or send a check to James Brennan, 139 Ashbrook Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

The Halterman collection continues to populate the rock raffle table.

I made it to the PMS show and actually found three more minerals that I did not have for my collection. It's great to see the same vendors show after show. Some of them I consider my friends and it's fun to catch up with them.

How about you, did you go on any adventures this past month? What about a picture of you favorite minerals? Send your stories and or pictures to our newsletter editor Susan.

Do you know of any future events, shows? Let Susan know and she'll get them in the newsletter. The Spring Mineral Sale at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum is April 26-27, 10-4.

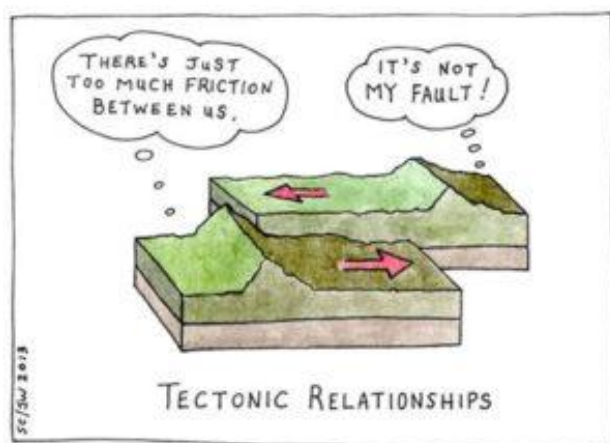
Unless you submit articles, jokes, or stories, you'll have to put up with mine.

Feel free to bring snacks to the meetings!

Science Article: I don't know how much science news you read on the internet but this is one of my go to websites. Check it out.

Phys.org - News and Articles on Science and Technology

Daily science news on research developments, technological breakthroughs and the latest scientific innovations.



John Arsenault - President

Field Trips and Events

Program for Wednesday, April 9th Regular Meeting: I am pleased to announce that our guest speaker for this month is **Derek Yoost**. **The topic for the meeting is: "Who Dung It" The Science of Fossil Coprolites.** The lecture will be on the science of coprolites and who did them (anywhere from the smallest insect to the biggest dinosaurs and everything in between). Most of us are familiar with the animals that are involved, but we don't ever think about what comes out the other end. The study of coprolites is very important because it represents a time when these long extinct creatures were alive. You can tell what they ate and

how their digestive systems worked and other information. We will also meet some of the various Paleontologists that study this enigmatic material.

Field Trips:

Edelman Fossil Park and Museum, Grand Opening Weekend, March 29th and 30th and Grand Opening Month: Go to EFM.org and sign up for notifications.

There are several members of DVESS that will continue as volunteers or employees at the park and museum. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was exciting, and Ric & Jean Edelman, Ali Houshmand and Dr. Ken Lacovara gave short speeches. A Pterodactyl, T-Rex and Prof Mascot were all in attendance. 1,000 people attended opening day, 1,400 people attended on Sunday and much smaller crowds attended each day this week. It was an exciting event to be part of. Drones were flying all over taking video of the opening day festivities.



Centralia, PA, Saturday April 19th - The meeting place is the May's Drive-In (diner) 2105 Central St., Ashland PA at 10:00am, please do not be late. Centralia, PA was a small coal mining community in central PA that had to be abandoned after the coal beds under it caught fire in the 1960's. Today nothing is left but the streets and sidewalks and some cemeteries. The surrounding area has several strip mines with numerous plant fossils. These are typical Llewellyn formation fossils, some of which are coated with pyrophyllite like the famous St Clair fern fossils. In addition to fern foliage and seeds there are also lepidodendron (scale tree) fossils including roots, stems, foliage and cones. Preservation and detail is good. Collecting is typical for plant fossils, splitting relatively soft shale with a hammer and chisel. There will be a half mile walk from the parking area to the collecting area. The terrain is very steep in places with rock faces of 20 to 40 feet

and collecting in the scree at the bottom so a degree of fitness and comfort moving around loose rock is required. There are no facilities at the site.

New Ringgold, PA Borrow Pit in East Brunswick Township, PA for Devonian Fossils in the Mahantango Formation, April 26th: This site is about an hour and forty-minute drive from the Philadelphia area. Meet at 10:00 AM at site. It is east of New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, PA on State Rt 895. It is a borrow pit/quarry owned by East Brunswick Township.

Earth Day Celebration with Gloucester County Parks & Recreation at Red Bank Battlefield, Sunday, April 27th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm: We will be displaying many fossils and minerals we have personally collected and will be having children paint rocks or color pictures of dinosaurs.

C.K Williams aka Easton Site, Saturday, May 3rd: Once again, we have been invited to join North Jersey Mineralogical Society (NoJMS) and Friends of Mineralogy NJ Chapter (FM-NJ). We will meet at a meeting location where we can carpool with others. The plan is to meet 9:45 at Jay R. Snyder Memorial Park at Eddyside Beach or at the site. Serpentine, asbestiform minerals and various micas, pegmatite bodies present with feldspar, quartz, micas, schorl, titanite and associated minerals. Some radioactive minerals are present.

Ramanessin Creek Marine Fossil trip. Stay tuned for details for May 10th 2025. This site is about an hour and fifteen minute drive from the Philadelphia area. Meet at 9:30 AM at Village Elementary School parking lot (67 McCampbell Rd., Holmdel, NJ 07733). It's a creek with a steep bank to get down (4 ft. or so). Equipment – knee-high boots or hip waders, ¼ inch screen, long handled shovel, collecting bags, water, and snacks. You may want to bring an extra set of clothes for the ride home. It is a Cretaceous site with collectors finding sharks' and fish teeth. Other invertebrate material can be found. An occasional mosasaur tooth and dinosaur material has been found. Indian artifacts can also be found.

Cape Atlantic Rockhounds 2025 Spring Show, Saturday May 17th 10 am til 4 pm and Sunday, May 18th from 10 am to 4 pm. At the David C Wood 4-H Center, 3210 US RT. 50, Mays Landing, NJ

Water Fest 2025 at Scotland Run Park in Clayton on Sunday, June 1st from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm: We will be displaying many fossils and minerals we have personally collected and will be having children paint rocks or color pictures of dinosaurs.

Dinosaur Park, Laurel, MD: I will continue to take names of those that are interested in participating. They are still getting their volunteer program together. They have not been very responsive to my calls. The Park is run by the National Park Service.

Mark Leipert - Vice President

NEWS

Volcano Watch: Kīlauea's continuing summit eruption

<https://mauinow.com/2025/04/05/volcano-watch-kilaueas-continuing-summit-eruption/>

Scientists warn Alaska volcano is 'moving closer to an eruption'

<https://www.msn.com/en-my/news/other/scientists-warn-alaska-volcano-is-moving-closer-to-an-eruption/ss-AA1CfBBe>

PHOTOS

by Catherine Eskew

Edelman Fossil Park and Museum Opening









DVESS Directory for 2025

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
<p>President: John Arsenault 856-495-8550 Asuwsh4@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vice President: Mark Leipert 856-524-2103 mark.leipert@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary: Cathy Eskew ceskew5@gmail.com</p> <p>Treasurer: James Brennan 610-322-1540 brenimage@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Junior Rockhounds Chair: Millard LeCompte 609-458-7763 WorksInFaith08009@gmail.com</p> <p>Field Trips: Mark Leipert</p> <p>Co-Field Trips: Fred Hochkile</p> <p>Membership: James Brennan</p>
<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Other Information:</u>
<p>Editor: Susan Moore aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Website:</u> www.DVESS.org</p> <p><u>Facebook:</u> <i>DVESSNJ – Amy Simpson</i></p>



Membership Information

Regular memberships are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities.

Regular Membership:

\$20.00 for the 1st family member + \$15.00 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)

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.

