

DVESScapades
escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



**Delaware Valley Earth Science
Society Newsletter**

Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Inc. (DVESS)
P.O. Box 372 Maple Shade, N.J. 08052
DVESS Website : <http://www.dvess.org>



Program; What's hot in Tuscon 2012

[See print info at bottom of news letter](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – August 2012 – by Ann Benson

I have had the pleasure of Lorraine Campbell's presence in my home for several weeks. She was staying in her mother's apartment at Collingswood Manor, hoping mom would recover sufficiently to "graduate" out of the nursing unit, but circumstances forced her to vacate the apartment; fresh from several field trips across South Jersey and down to Cape May, Lorraine's car was (did you guess?) packed from stem to stern with cape may diamonds and other assorted treasures and equipment, so when that made living in the car less of an option, Lorraine came to stay with Mel and me. Ours is a treasured friendship going back to my early days as President, and hers as First Junior Rockhounds Teacher at DVESS. Lorraine has temporarily returned to her home in Tennessee, but will return in September when we will travel to Harrisburg for the Eastern Federation convention and Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club's 47th annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show (fliers for this event will be available at our August and September meetings).

Thanks to our permanent home on the premises of Centenary United Methodist Church in Berlin, our meetings now continue throughout the summer; come out in August to enjoy the fun and fellowship. The September meeting will feature our annual Members' Show and Tell, so start getting your summer treasures ready for display to the club! "What's-its" are also welcome.

Going on a field trip? Visiting a museum with a fine exhibit of fossils, working on an minerals or fossils you're your collection? Why not document your activity, taking pictures or video, making notes for narration, and then use PowerPoint (or another program) so you can show your presentation to your fellow Club members in the fall?

BOOK REVIEW

"HORSESHOE CRABS AND VELVET WORMS: THE STORY OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS THAT TIME HAS LEFT BEHIND" by Richard Fortey

New York Times writer Dwight Garner (**April 12, 2012**) describes this book as "witty but emotionally profound" and says it "begins, as all serious books of science should, at an orgy" referring to that specific rite of Spring which many of us have attended at Reed's Beach and elsewhere along the Delaware bay – "the nighttime mating ritual of thousands of clacking horseshoe crabs".

The author is a British paleontologist who also wrote ["Trilobite! Eyewitness to Evolution"](#) and ["Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth"](#) and worked for many years at London's Natural History Museum.

Smithsonian magazine writer Chloe Schama (April, 2012) calls this book "charming" and adds that the author includes descriptions of other "durable" species such as stromatolites (Australia) and ginko trees (China) which offer "a kind of telescope to see back in time".

This book can be purchased from Barnes and Noble or Amazon for \$16.63, or on Nook or Kindle for \$14.99.

July 11th meeting was held at Centenary UM Church in Berlin, NJ. Proceedings took place in the air-conditioned Church basement, next door to the regular hall. AnnLynne Benson- President/Special Events Coordinator had special commitments, but managed to arrive late.

Therefore, 1st VP Mark Leipert took charge of the meeting and opened the proceedings at 7:50pm. Attendance: AnnLynne Benson- President/Special Events Coordinator, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Program Chair, Grant Elliott- Recording Secretary, Mark Leipert- 1st VP, Lou Detofsky- 2nd VP, Lance Schnatterly- Cyber Consultant, and Mil LeCompte- Jr Rockhound Coordinator/Facilitator. Bob & Sally Todd, Tennessee fugitive Lorraine Campbell, the Stapletons, and Susan Moore were present amongst other attendees.

Program: John Sanfacon on "Rare Earth Elements in Minerals". This included radioactives and fluorescents. He brought a geiger counter and UV lamp to illustrate the phenomena of these enigmatic and elusive elements, which have such an important presence in modern day society.

Future Programs:

August 2012- Still in the works

September 2012- Show and Tell

October 2012- Bob Thompson on Native American Artifacts.

Special Events/Field Trips:

Reminiscenced on Lou's "Grand Tour" which took place June 23rd. An image captured below during "THE GRAND TOUR" - Which one is Lou???

Be safe as you dig for specimens this summer. And remember, the best way to be a great mineral collector is to learn, learn, learn, learn!

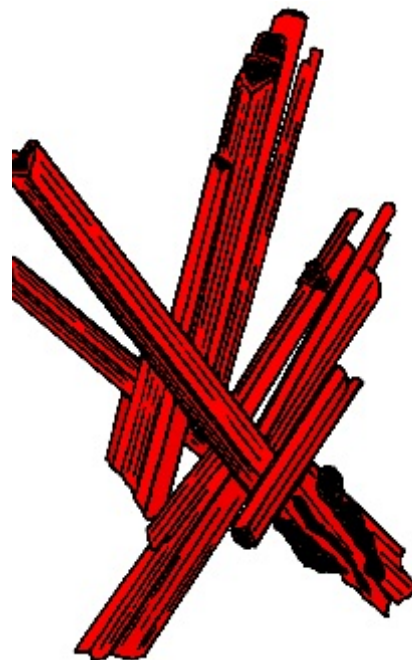
**DUES are due Now with your UP TO DATE DUES YOU HAVE INSURANCE
NO DUES - NO INSURANCE AND NO FIELD TRIP !!!!**

The following page has the membership form

DUES – You get Eastern Federation insurance for field trips!!!

The following page –Mineral of the Month — is courtesy of:

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Mineral of the Month – Crocoite

Crocoite is a rare mineral. It is also one of the most spectacular and popular minerals for collectors. It was first found in Russia. The most famous, and truly the best crystals, are found in Tasmania where needle-thin as well as thick crystals and crystal groups can be found. Some of these crystals are up to 20 centimeters long!

Physical Properties:

Chemical Formula: Lead Chromate $PbCrO_4$

Color: Orange, red, yellow

Crystal habit: Large, long crystals to acicular

Crystal system: Monoclinic Cleavage: Distinct in one direction

Fracture: Conchoidal to uneven Tenacity: Sectile (meaning it can be cut into shavings with a knife) Hardness: 2.5–3 Luster: Adamantine Streak: Yellowish orange

Name: “Crocoite” was named by the mineralogist, F. S. Beudant in 1832. The name he actually gave to this mineral was crocoise from the Greek word, κροκος, which means saffron, in allusion to its color. Saffron is an orange-red flower. This first name was later altered to crocoisite and finally to crocoite.

Uses: In the past, crocoite was the most important ore of the element chromium. It is too rare, however, to be used as an ore today. Today it is a favorite of mineral collectors because of the combination of its attractive crystal groups and stunning orange-red color. The element chromium was first discovered by Louis-Nicholas Vauquelin when he was studying samples of this mineral from Siberia. Color the specimen to the right.

Response to an article from last month. Thank you Sue Vancola. Here's a follow-up on the Mongolian Dino from a Tampa paper Sue

NEW YORK (AP) — A Florida dealer of fossils who acquired the remains of a dinosaur that the government plans to seize says he is “not some international bone smuggler” and that he risked his finances and reputation to put together the skeleton to promote a love of science in others.

Eric Prokopi, 37, struck back Thursday at the U.S. government’s account of the Tyrannosaurus bataar fossil it seeks to hand over to Mongolia.

“I’m just a guy in Gainesville, Florida trying to support my family, not some international bone smuggler,” he said in a statement obtained by The Associated Press.

He said transforming chunks of rocks and broken bones “into an impressive skeleton took thousands of hours and every penny my wife and I had, but it was fascinating.

“We were thrilled and couldn’t wait to share him with the world, and hoped it would inspire others to see the magic of paleontology and develop a love of science and appreciation of nature,” Prokopi said.

Prokopi contested government claims in papers it filed in federal court in Manhattan this week that the skeleton was brought from Great Britain to Gainesville in March 2010 with erroneous claims that it had originated in Great Britain and was worth only \$15,000. It was sold at auction last month for more than \$1 million, though the sale is contingent upon the outcome of litigation.

A judge earlier this week said the government could seize the 8-foot-tall, 24-foot-long skeleton from a Queens art storage facility because it appears the government will succeed in its claims. The skeleton was scheduled to be picked up Friday. Prokopi accused the government of caving to the will of Mongolia, saying he hoped “the American legal system will uphold the American laws and not sacrifice my rights and freedoms to please a foreign government out for a political trophy.”

The commercial paleontologist said that the U.S. government wrongly claimed he misrepresented what was being imported and its value.

“I can wholeheartedly say the import documents are not fraudulent, a truth I am confident will be brought to light in the coming weeks,” he said. “The value was declared much lower than the auction value because, quite simply, it was loose, mostly broken bones and rocks with embedded bones. It was not what you see today, a virtually complete, mounted skeleton.”

Ellen Davis, a spokeswoman for government lawyers, declined to comment Thursday.

Prokopi said and his wife hoped the skeleton would be bought by a museum or collector who would put it in a public forum, but the controversy that erupted caused museums to back out of the sale.

Prokopi also challenged assertions by experts that the skeleton had to originate in Mongolia, saying it was true that they are mainly known to come from the Gobi desert of Mongolia, “but they’ve also been found elsewhere, and it’s certainly possible a new locality with complete specimens was discovered in another country.”

He said they were “stunned by some of the public’s reaction to the sale because commercial paleontology and private collectors are a vital part of bringing some of nature’s most precious treasures to museum’s worldwide.”

Prokopi also challenged claims by some experts that the skeleton was collected poorly.

“I believe this specimen was expertly excavated, and the only damage that was done was caused by the elements,” he said. “The claws and some teeth had weathered away and some teeth had slipped out before burial. I believe this specimen was expertly excavated, and the only damage that was done was caused by the elements.”

He said claims by experts that it had been unearthed in the last 17 years could not be trusted.

“Other than the diggers, there is no way for anyone to know for certain when or where the specimen was collected,” Prokopi said.

He defended commercial paleontology, saying the business was “full of intelligent, passionate people who love paleontology, not bone smugglers just looking to steal from important scientific research.”

He said he was “headed toward total financial ruin” because the lost sale of the dinosaur had “irreparably devastated my family financially, it has cost several people their jobs, taken an emotional toll on my life and two young children and damaged my reputation as a commercial paleontologist.”

Prokopi added: “If it weren’t for people like me, some of these bones would just turn to dust and none of us would ever get to see or study them.”

DVESS MEETING LOCATION :

DIRECTIONS:

From Atco (west-bound), after the traffic light at Taunton Ave. (Rite Aid drugstore on the left), the church is about the 3rd building on the right; turn into the first driveway. If you miss it, pass by the church and turn Right onto Broad St. (at the Berlin Diner) then turn Right into the parking lot of the Baptist Church and go straight all the way - the parking lots of both churches connect.

From Rt. 73 in Marlton: head East (South) on Rt. 73. As you enter Berlin, you will pass Wal-Mart (on the left) and a shopping center (on the right) with Shop Rite and Staples. Get into the Right "Exit Only" lane and follow the signs for Cross Keys Rd. At the intersection of Cross Keys Rd. and the White Horse Pike (Rt. 30) turn LEFT. At the next intersection (Broad St.) continue straight past the Berlin Diner and SPEEDY MART on your left; pass by 2 or 3 white storefronts on the left then see the big white church with red front doors on your left. Pass in front of the church and turn into the driveway on the far side. Education Building is behind the church.

From Lindenwold or Clementon on the White Horse Pike (east-bound):

As you enter Berlin business district, you will pass through the traffic light at Cross Keys Rd. (CVS Pharmacy on right corner). Follow highlighted directions above.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular members are entitled to participate in all DVESS activities. Sponsoring members are entitled to the same plus a specially chosen mineral specimen. Dues are renewable each year in January. Membership rates for the Society:

Regular Membership:

\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member

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

Sponsoring Memberships (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 a Native Gold

Specimen "Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

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 , knowledge 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>)

MEETINGS

The Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month throughout the year at Centenary United Methodist Church, 151 South White Horse Pike, (route 30) in Berlin. Junior Rockhounds meet at 7:30pm with the regular meeting beginning around 8 pm.

Anyone with info for the newsletter please share with me. You can be published! Stuff you did in school, on a trip etc., see my info below (next page).

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 editor.

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)

- 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

<i>DVESS Directory 2012</i>	<u>President</u> Ann Lynne Benson 856-783-0969(h) SeleniteQueen@gmail.com 856-418-6121 (c)
<u>1st Vice President</u> Mark Leipert 609-567-7551 (h) mark.leipert@yahoo.com	<u>2nd Vice President</u> Lou Detofsky "Doc Rock"
<u>Recording Secretary</u> 856-728-1731 Grant Elliott gle@verizon.net	<u>Treasurer and Program Chair</u> 856-234-0708 - (h) Gary Weinstein 856-795-5077 - wk garyskyrock@hotmail.com
<u>Jr Rockhound Coordinator (Teacher 8-13)</u> Mel LeCompte 856-783-0969 wrks-in-faith@comcast.net	<u>Jr Rockhounds Teacher 14-18</u> Gerald Feigin gfeigin@co.gloucester.nj.us
<u>Website Coordinator</u> Terry Wilson terry@dvees.org	<u>Special Events Coordinator</u> 856-783-0969 Ann Lynne Benson SeleniteQueen@gmail.com
	<u>DVESS Newsletter Ed, Membership</u> 856-428-0621 - (h) decuzzio@comcast.net or DVESS@int-pro.com Carol De Cuzzi

Membership Form

Start w/ first family member (designated as head of family) Juniors must have an adult head of family with the Junior as the additional family member for insurance purposes.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP+4 _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Profession, School or Major Work

Okay to let other members of the Club see your email and other orange-starred information (on website)?

Okay to share _____

Do NOT share _____

Newsletter Delivery ONLY via e-mail

additional family members to be registered w/ above member

Type of membership Regular Membership:
\$15.00 for the 1st family member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
\$10.00 for the 1st Senior (65+) member + \$5.00 for each additional family member
Dues are collected on a calendar year Jan to Dec, no pro-rata rates
additional members on another paper if needed

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

First Name: _____

Last Name (only if different from above)

Sponsoring Memberships (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 a Native Gold Specimen
"Platinum" \$100 for 1st family member - receive a Premium Specimen

Interests: Minerals ___ Fossils ___ Lapidary ___ Collecting ___ Museum Trips ___
Trotter ___ Sterling Hill ___ other, please list _____

How did you learn of DVESS? _____

Comments _____

What NON-DVESS interests or hobbies do you have? Would you be willing to share with our members?

What would you like the club to do or provide for you? _____

the news letter has been shrunk to fit on less printed pages, those of you reading it on the net are free to enlarge it for easier reading. Please contact with your opinion.