

# DVESScapades

*escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures*



## DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



> founded in 1956 <

**Next Meeting:** August 14th, 2013

**Program:** Ned Gilmore "New Jersey Fossils & Fossils in the Academy of Natural Sciences Collection"

### Hot Weather Note - August

If the weather is hot, the meeting will be held in the (air conditioned) basement of the main building.

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

## Program Schedule

September - You, DVESS members, Show and Tell

October - Dr. Louis Detofsky, "Geology of the Mediterranean"

October Banquet - Dr. Stephen Okulewicz, topic TBD

November - John Ferrante, "History of Micromounting and the Leidy Microscopical Society"

December - Holiday Party with DVD, gift exchange, Food and elections.

Next year we will have John Sanfacon, Derek Yost and Richard Bostwick returning with some new, wonderful programs to enthrall us. Stay tuned. - Gary

## **President's Message:** By Mark Leipert, President

**Whaleback Shamokin, PA/ St. Clair, PA/Deer Lake, PA** combined fossil collecting locations on Saturday July 27th. This was our clubs greatest showing with the exception of the Super Dig. We had nine members and three guests attend our fossil adventure in the eastern coal region of Pennsylvania. They included Bob & Sally Todd, Heather Bolton, Sue Moore, Sue Vancola, Jim Brennan, Ann Benson, Mel LeCompte, our guests Ryan Bower, Jeff Tuttle and his daughter Jordan and myself. The weather looked threatening all day, although the weatherman predicted no rain until evening. After for several hours we finally reached Whaleback on a back road in Shamokin, PA. We were greeted by a packs of about twelve to fifteen terrifying ATV riders. We met a local father and son who gave some of us an awesome personal tour of the Whaleback scenic overlook. Half the group went to the Whaleback structure and collected some plant fossils. The other half was collecting at the spoil banks near where the cars were parked. The prize specimen was found by Jeff, who found an excellent *Stigmaria* (tree root) with smaller roots attached. The specimen weighed about fifty plus pounds. Heavy rains fell for a while and cleared up some before packing up and heading south to St. Clair.

When we arrived at St, Clair, we were greeted by a father and son team who were on their second trip back to their car with a wagon loaded with very nice plant fossils. They told us to look for the tarps because someone had unearthed some really good materials and left a lot of it behind. He wasn't kidding. There were slabs of materials cut, some already split and those ready to split. Many of these fossils hadn't seen the light of day in almost 300 million years. We collected for two and a half to three hours. The thunderstorms caught up to us and some of us got really wet. This was one of the best fossil collecting trips to St. Clair ever. Everyone came away with some excellent fossil plant material. The rain continued very hard most of the way home. I think everyone had a good time. It was raining too hard when we passed by Deer Lake to stop so we settled for a drive-by for now.

**Cornwall Iron Furnace Museum & Indian Echo Caverns Tour- August 10<sup>th</sup>** – On Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> we are planning a museum and cave trip. We are going to Cornwall Iron Furnace to learn about the largest iron ore body east of Michigan. We will be driving to the museum in Cornwall, PA. The hours of operation on Saturday are from 0900 to 1700 and the costs are as follows: Adult-\$8.00, Reduced rates for those who are 65+ or AAA members. There is no collecting nearby; spoil banks and mines are on private property. After we finish at the museum we plan to drive to Hummeltown, PA to visit the Indian Echo Caverns. You can go on

the cave tour and pan for gems afterwards. The hours of operation on Saturday are from 0900 to 1800 and the costs are as follows: Adult-\$14.00, \$12.00 65+ , \$1.00 discount coupon available on website. Please contact me at [mark.leipert@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com) if you plan on attending this trip. Only a few people have signed up so far.

**Sterling Hill Mine Tour - Tentatively scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>** - Our annual DVESS club tour of Sterling Hill Mine, Museum and Buildings is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please sign up at the August meeting if you plan on attending. This is a free tour to DVESS members.

**Inversand Community Day, September 28<sup>th</sup>** - We are looking for some volunteers to help with the September 28<sup>th</sup> Community Day event. You will also be able to do some fossil collecting in designated areas. Other areas are also being excavated in conjunction with studies at Drexel University. Contact me at [mark.leipert@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.leipert@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Minutes of the DVESS General Meeting July 10, 2013

By Grant Elliott, Recording Secretary

Meeting was held at Centenary UM Church in Berlin, NJ.

Attendance: AnnLynne Benson - 1st VP/Special Events Coordinator/Membership, Gary Weinstein- Treasurer/Program Chair, Grant Elliott - Recording Secretary, Mark Leipert - President/Field Trip Chair, Mil LeCompte - Jr. Rockhound Coordinator/Facilitator, Lance Schnatterly- Cyber Consultant ([facebook.com/DVESSNJ](https://www.facebook.com/DVESSNJ)), and Susan Moore - Newsletter Editor ([aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com)).

Amongst others present were Stu Cleveland, Carol DeCuzzi, Sue Vancola, Dr. Gerald Feigin and son Jonathan, Jim Brennan, in addition to featured speaker, Amy Carpenelli, Amy's spouse/children and guests associated with this Washington Township High School science teacher.

President Mark Leipert gaveled commencement of the meeting at approximately 8:00pm.

Program: Amy Carpenelli presented an overview on trace fossils, showing particular affection towards the waste products of paleontological beasts.

Mark's notes:

- Phoenixville mining district (6/23/13) and Big Brook (6/29/13) experiences.
- 6/22/2013 Lou's Grand Tour postponed to September or October 2013.

- Sterling Hill Mine Tour will take place on 9/21/2013, not 10/12/2013 as previously amended.
- 7/27/2013 St. Clair/Whale Back/Deer lake trip.
- 8/10/2013 Cornwall Iron Furnace Museum and Indian Echo Caverns.
- 7/14/2013 Annual picnic and auction at Gerald's house.
- 10/13/2013 Banquet - Membership needs to choose topic for Dr. Steve Okulowicz to present. Menu of topics were circulated amongst those present to denote their choice.
- Executive Board meeting on July 17th will be at James Lawless's house in Somerdale (Thanks Jim).

#### Future Programs:

August 2013- Ned Gilmore on Fossils in New Jersey and at the Academy of Natural Science(Philadelphia).

September 2013 - Membership Show & Tell experiences.

October 2013 - Lou will present a monumental treatise on the archeology and geology of the Mediterranean (Italy, Turkey, and Greece).

Derek Yoost and John Sanfacon in the works.

#### Special Events/Field Trips:

A number of earth science trips planned to possibly include many of the following (dates and details to follow):

- Inversand (Opening up April 5th) Mark is continuing to stay close to the principals.
- Wheatly Mine, Ecton Mine, Upper New Street Quarry, Delaware Museum of Natural History, The Mutter Museum, The Prehistoric Museum in Greenwich Township, NJ.

Berlin Baptist Church Board approved usage of their 15-passenger van for some of these events.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:03pm.

## News

**Rare Earth Elements - Gold rush-era discards could fuel cellphones, TVs** - by Tracie Cone, July 21, 2013

"Uncle Sam could be sitting on a gold mine," said Larry Meinert, director of the mineral resource program for the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Va.

The USGS and Department of Energy are on a nationwide scramble for deposits of the elements that make magnets lighter, bring balanced hues to fluorescent lighting and color to the touch screens of smartphones in order to break the Chinese stranglehold on those supplies.

They were surprised to find that the critical elements could be in plain sight in piles of rubble otherwise considered eyesores and toxic waste.

Read more at <http://news.yahoo.com/gold-rush-era-discards-could-fuel-cellphones-tvs-133752521.html>

## Websites of the Month

Cornwall Iron Furnace

part of a National Historic Landmark District, America's most complete charcoal fueled ironmaking complex. <http://www.cornwallironfurnace.org/>

Indian Echo Caverns

<http://www.indianechocaverns.com/caverns.htm>

Common Fossils of Pennsylvania

[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_014599.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_014599.pdf)

Fossil Plates - images of fossils that can be found in Pennsylvania

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/collecting/fossilsintro/fossils/index.htm>

Could new rules on fossils bury citizen paleontology? Forest Service wants to limit 'casual collecting' to 25 pounds a year

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/article/20130724/NEWS0107/307240320>

Open Culture - great web resource for free movies, books, courses and more with a educational bend by a Stanford professor. <http://www.openculture.com/>

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

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

Wildacres Fall 2013 workshops <http://efmls-wildacres.org/page5/index.html>

Iron Hill Museum, Newark, DE <http://www.ironhill-museum.org/default.htm>



## Field Trip Photos

**Whaleback and St. Clair, July 27th, 2013**

*photos by Jim Brennan*



*Whaleback*







*St. Clair*







## Upcoming Field Trips

**Cornwall Iron Furnace Museum and Indian Echo Caverns, Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**September or October-** Lou's Grand (Coastal Geology) Tour – 15 passenger van trip - Sign-up sheet at general meeting.



## Shows and Events

### September

September 18th - 22nd - AFMS/SFMS Convention and Show, Heavens and Earth, Jacksonville, FL  
<http://www.amfed.org/show2013.htm>

September 21st - Sterling Hill Mine Club Tour (tentatively scheduled)

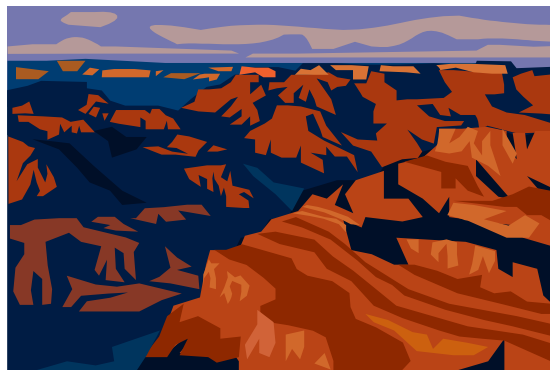
September 28–29 - 49th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

### Looking Ahead

October 13th - Annual Club Banquet at Mandarin Restaurant- featuring Magician/Geologist/Professor Dr. Steve Okulewicz presentation.

October 13–19 – Earth Science Week 2013 promotes awareness of the many exciting uses of maps and mapping technologies in the geosciences. <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>

October 26 - The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA presents our Annual “ULTRAVIOLATION” an all Fluorescent Mineral Show, at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA. Information contact Chuck O’Loughlin: [ultraviolation@yahoo.com](mailto:ultraviolation@yahoo.com)



## Words of Wisdom

Courtesy of the ROCKHOUNDER, newsletter of the  
Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD

To The Class of '13 plus infinity,  
As you graduate into the summer and the rest of your lives! I would like to give you these words of wisdom. You will face many adversities:

- Rocks are heavy!
- It's uphill to the car.
- Rocks are hard.
- We are soft.
- You brought the wrong tools.
- You went to the wrong quarry.
- The site was picked over before you were born.
- You need a potty now!
- I thought you brought the toilet paper!
- You have a lid for this bucket?
- Car dragging on the road.
- Flat tire.
- Jack won't lift car.

Despite all these impediments, know that you will persevere! I therefore say to you, go forth and acquire new rocks and great adventures. Bring the rocks to show-and-tell and write an article for the newsletter about your adventures!

Remember: "Every Rock is Beautiful in Its Own Way!"

~ ~ Andy Celmer, President



## Quote of the Month

"This country is geology by day and astronomy by night." - *J. B. Priestley*

## Picnic Photos

by Jim Brennan





## Club Brochures

Please pick up one or two yellow club brochures and have them on hand in your vehicle or handbag to give out to folks. If you see a parent and child, strike up a conversation by asking, “Does your child like rocks or dinosaurs?” Offer them a club brochure; if they’re not from our area, addresses and websites for the American Federation are on the back of the brochure. Your small gesture may make a world of difference to that child, his/her family, and to our club.



## 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:*

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

“Silver” \$50.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive a Geode Specimen

“Gold” \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member – receive Mineral Specimen

“Platinum” \$100.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com). Tell us about your latest collecting trip or share some photos with us!

