

DVESScapades

escapades: interesting, stimulating, exciting activities and adventures



DELAWARE VALLEY EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



August 2015

Next Meeting: August 12th

Program: To be held in the air-conditioned church basement - We will, by popular demand, once again have our micromount presentation. Everyone attending will get to make and take their own micro from a selection of crystals.

Upcoming: September 9th - Annual Show-and-Tell

Since we missed doing this last year, anyone with info to share can include the last two years of collecting experience.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

Our annual Banquet is approaching. Save the date! **Sunday, October 25th**, 2 to 6 pm. Derek Yoost will give us a presentation. Topic and location to be determined. Stay tuned. Door prizes for all, a raffle drawing and lots of food.

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

Hot Weather Note - July and August

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

President's Message by AnnLynne Benson

Constitution and Bylaws - Second Vice-President Lou Detofsky and I have begun the challenging task of updating the DVESS Constitution and Bylaws. Our Constitution contains the fundamental principles which govern our Society's operation; the bylaws establish the specific rules of guidance by which we, as a group, are to function. According to some sources, bylaws are the most important legal document of any organization, because they outline in writing the day-to-day rules of the organization and provide comprehensive guidelines to keep things running smoothly. Our present Constitution was ratified in November, 1986.

Let's put that into perspective: Ronald Reagan was president. The big political news was the Iran-Contra affair; gay people were still deep in the closet; Mike Tyson had just won his first world boxing title and the number one rated TV show was The Cosby Show.

The average cost of new house was \$89,430 and gas was 89 cents a gallon. You could buy a dozen eggs for 65 cents, a US postage stamp for 24 cents, and a Ford Mustang would set you back only \$7,452.

Lady Gaga was eight months old; Lindsay Lohan was four and one half months old; Oprah Winfrey's TV show had gone national just two months previously and the Fox Broadcasting Company was a month old.

There was no internet, the Sony Walkman was *the* symbol of portable technology, and carrying a cell phone could save you some workout time at the gym.



Much has changed in our nation and in our club since 1986. It's time to bring our Constitution and Bylaws into the new millennium.

I'm repeating the SWAPPING offer, in case you missed it last month - the legendary Alex Klinshaw, one of the charter members of DVESS often packed prime mineral specimens and send them to a university in China, Russia, or elsewhere in the world with a note simply saying, "*Here are some minerals for you; please send us some in exchange.*" He did this unannounced, always with exciting and gratifying results!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. Spring River Gem & Mineral Club in Cherokee Village, Ar. wants to swap mineral/fossil specimens (no rocks, no leaverites). Your box should be a minimum of 10 lbs. and can be shipped in a medium size, flat rate, USPS box for approximately \$12.00; they will send you "individually wrapped and identified" specimens by return mail. This is an amazing way to connect with Rockhounds across the country.

THE END IS NEAR - Field Station Dinosaurs is closing soon! Our own Doc Rock will be speaking there on August 22nd - good day to take advantage of this "NJ gem" of an attraction.

Keep on Rocking!

Field Trips:

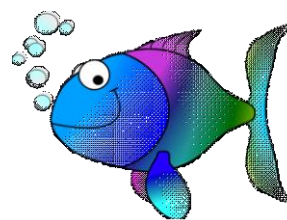
August 15th: **Beltville Dam** at Beltville State Park in the Poconos, Devonian fossils including brachiopods, crinoids, trilobites, bryozoans and corals. The fossils will be found in the shales and sandstones of the Devonian-age Mahantango Formation. The site is very accessible. We will be meeting at lot 8A at WoodCrest Station of the PATCO High Speed Line at 8:30 am. Sign up for the trip will be at the August 12th meeting.

Inversand - 4th Annual Mantua Township Community Day at Fossil Heritage Site (Inversand) on September 29th in Lowes and Target parking lot off Woodbury Glassboro Road. Click or go to this link to sign up for tour and dig. <http://visitsouthjersey.com/events/mantua-community-fossil-dig-day/>

DVESS will have a table exhibiting mineral & fossils from New Jersey. If you are interested in helping out contact Mark Leipert at mark.leipert@yahoo.com

A Little Humor

1. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.
2. Have you noticed, since everyone has a camcorder these days, no one talks about seeing UFOs like they use to?
3. Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty?
4. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.



via Gem Cutters News 4/03 from RockBuster News August 2015

Wildacres Update

by Steve Weinberger

Re-printed from EFMLS News, June/ July 2015

When we were given the May and August dates for Wildacres this year, we heard from many of you that this was great. By May the weather warms up a bit and in August this year we do not have to contend with the Labor Day holiday as has happened in the past. Your response to filling the May session was quick, and luckily we could fill all our registration requests and thus have no waiting list. We're just back from that session and can report that as usual, the week was just terrific. The August session however, is a different story. As was the case last year, our current registration puts us in danger of losing the session. This would be a shame because we have a varied series of interesting classes to offer and a dynamic speaker, Denise Nelson.

Denise is preparing new talks for us that sound just wonderful. In addition, because of the August dates, we are able to bring back two outstanding and very popular instructors who would not have been able to join us had we been scheduled for September! You can see the list of classes on page 13 of the June/ July issue of EFMLS News (www.amfed.org/efmls) and find a registration form on page 14. So, if you are even thinking about attending, send in immediately! If we can get our minimum number of registrants by July 10 we can proceed with our plans for this exciting session and not have to cancel any classes...or worse yet, the entire session.

Wildacres 2nd Session Classes—August 24-30, 2015.

Speaker-in-Residence: Denise Nelson;

Faceting-Steve Weinberger;

Gem Identification-B. Jay Bowman;

Gem Trees- Basic and Advanced- Suzie Milligan;

Intarsia-Richard Shackleton;

Polymer Clay-Barbara McGuire;

Roadside Geology-Virginia Meszler

Read the label before using any product, and follow all label precautions.

Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners

by Betsy Martin

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces. 2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid. iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces. 3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above). 4. Calgon - Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal. 5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - Will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above) 6. Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water. 7. Bleach - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water. 8. Hydrogen peroxide - Use to remove

manganese stains. Rinse with plain water. 9. Citric acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids. 10. Windex (with ammonia) - A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water. 11. Distilled Water - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings: On moderately hard minerals - use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush. On hard minerals - use toothbrush with pumice powder and water. On calcite (including bruised places) - quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools: Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

*via CMS Tumbler 5/15; Whittier Rockhounder, 4/15; via Breccia, 6/07; via The Franklin County Rockhounder, 5/07; Gem Cutters News, 4/07; from The Collecting Bag, 12/06 Clacamete Gem 6/15
GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS JUNE 2015, via RockBuster News August 2015*

WHAT IS A ROCK?

By May E. Hansen

A rock to a boy is something to throw,
A rock to a jeweler has value like gold.
A rock to a gardener is an ornament for flowers,
A rock to a farmer is a burden when plowing.
A rock to a fisherman makes a fine seat.
A rock to a sailor is a landmark at sea.
But of all the meanings it has been to man
Since the world's creation and it all began
Surely no value can hardly be measured
Nor can a rock be so highly treasured
As that rock, the rockhound holds in his hand,
A specimen so great a specimen so grand.
Be it pyrite, topaz, jade or a geode
After digging and digging, that rock he holds
Has value unmeasured, much higher than gold,
For the discovery of nature is an experience untold.



*From Rockhound Rambling. January, 1990 via Rock Rattler,
November 2004 via The Shin-Skiner News 9/05 via RockBuster News August 2015*



HUMOR IN MINERALOGY

By FRANCE VORE

Almosthadite - refers to a specimen of which the major portion remains on public display in a remote quarry.

Cantrememberite - one of the more common specimens typically from locations generally unknown in the present time.

Droppedite - a collection of cleavage fragments representing a high quality cabinet specimen formerly on display.

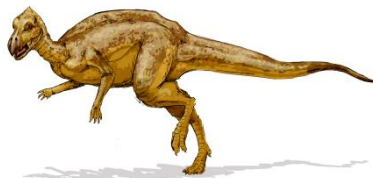
Nolabelite - one of a class of minerals or fossils of relatively little value appearing in most private collections.

Cantquitespellite - resembles a specimen in the University collection with an even longer and more complex name.

Oncehadite - used in reference to extremely unusual specimens traded at rock shows before true identify was realized.

Usedtohavite - a secondary form of specimens including marcasite, best recognized by the permanent brown ring where the specimens formerly sat on the shelf.

*FROM THE POST ROCK, MARCH 03 via Gem Cutters News 4/03
via RockBuster News August 2015*



Websites of the Month

Field Station Dinosaurs - Set against the natural backdrop of the New Jersey Meadowlands and nestled at the base of a 150 million year old rock formation, the Field Station is just nine minutes from New York City. Over thirty life-sized, realistic dinosaurs (including the 90 foot long Argentinosaurus, so big it's visible from the Empire State Building) come to life thanks to roboticists and artists. <http://fieldstationdinosaurs.com/>

Mineral Cleaning and Preparation - Discussion of best and safest ways to clean and prepare minerals. <http://www.mindat.org/msgboard-19.html>

A SIMPLE STONE CAN ROCK YOUR WORLD

Has finding a particular rock, mineral or fossil ever *wowed* you? Filled you with excitement and wonder?

Tell us your story of exploration and discovery
of your best find ever!

You can write it and send to our Editor at
aquamarinepaisleyorchid@yahoo.com

or call me and I'll write it up for you.

Ann Benson
856-418-6121

Quote of the Month

The noble science of Geology loses glory from the extreme imperfection of the record. The crust of the earth with its embedded remains must not be looked at as a well-filled museum, but as a poor collection made at hazard and at rare intervals. — *Charles Darwin*, 1861

DVESS Picnic photos

by Susan Moore



Shows and Events



August

22: **Field Station Dinosaur** - Renowned Geologist "Doc Rock" Dr. Louis Detofsky will be at the Field Station presenting on the geological history of the location of the park. Turns out, we're situated atop a geological gold mine... so to speak.

What: Geological History of Snake Hill

Where: Field Station: Dinosaurs, One Dinosaur Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094

<http://fieldstationdinosaurs.com/calendar/view/Geological-History-of-Snake-Hill-2015-07-10-011608>

September

19-20: Mays Landing, NJ - Cape-Atlantic Rock Hounds Annual Fall Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show. 2641 Cologne Ave. Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Free Parking & Admission. Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 5 pm (rain or shine). For more information: <http://capeatlanticrockhounds.com/> or call Billie Brockhum at (609) 879-1179.

26-27: Franklin, NJ - 59th Annual Franklin-Sterling Gem & Mineral Indoor Show and Outdoor Show, Indoor show: Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. Outdoor Swap: Saturday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Franklin School, 50 Washington Ave., Franklin, NJ 07416. Admission: \$7.00 Adult, \$4.00 child (6-16) . <http://spmom3.wix.com/franklin-gem-mineral>

29: 4th Annual Mantua Township Community Day at Fossil Heritage Site (Inversand), Lowes and Target parking lot off Woodbury Glassboro Road. <http://visitsouthjersey.com/events/mantua-community-fossil-dig-day/>

October

24: Fairless Hills, PA - The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA presents Annual "ULTRAVIOLATION" an all Fluorescent Mineral Show, at the First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA., 9 am – 5 pm, \$2.00 Donation, children 12 years old and younger FREE. Information: Chuck O'Loughlin, 130 Maple Terrace, Merchantville, NJ 08109, phone: 856-663-1383, Email: ultraviolation@yahoo.com

25: DVESS Annual Banquet - 2 to 6 pm. Derek Yoost will give us a presentation. Topic and location to be determined. Door prizes for all, a raffle drawing and lots of food.



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:

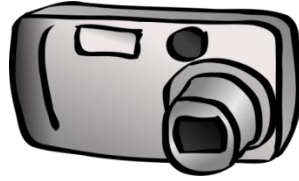
- promotes interest in, knowledge of, and the development of skills in the “earth sciences.” These interests include mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, archeology, and local preservation.
- supports the conservation of natural resources, advocates the availability of collecting sites, and maintains 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.

